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# THE TIMES

Bernard Levin and  
the Celestial  
Tootle, page 16

## Leyland gets £50m loan from NEB to stay afloat

The National Enterprise Board is giving British Leyland a loan of £50m to ease a serious cash problem. The loan, effectively to pay wages and keep the company afloat, has been made from money earmarked for Leyland's capital investment programme. The decision has been described as a scandal by an Opposition spokesman and a major row seems likely.

## Row likely on drain of investment funds

By Peter Hill

British Leyland is being given a £50m cash injection to ease its serious cash flow crisis. The money is to be used to pay the wages and keep the company afloat.

The decision yesterday by the National Enterprise Board to provide the £50m loan follows approval by Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry.

The loan is expected to provide the company with the £100m announced earlier this year by the NEB to provide support for the company's capital investment programme.

Mr Michael Grylls, MP for Surrey, NW and vice chairman of the Conservative Industry Committee, described the decision as "a scandal". He said that he was writing immediately to Mr Varley and would demand a full statement as soon as Parliament reassembled.

"It is a scandal that money which has been approved by Parliament for capital investment is now being used to keep the company afloat and to pay wages," he said.

Only last week Mr Leslie Upphy, chairman of the NEB, issued a warning that the company would not be bailed out if it failed to raise its share of the money required for investment programme.

But he did add that this contained would not be applied to the difficulties resulting from the action among component companies.

It was the recent spate of strikes among component suppliers which the NEB has said as justification for the test tranche.

The 11-week strike by Lucas over workers was resolved this week but it led to more than 18,000 workers of Leyland Cars being laid off.

British Leyland's position now very grave. The NEB has stressed repeatedly that further money support would be conditional on progress on industrial relations reform was being maintained. But the company is still faced with the

prospect of another strike by 3,000 "rebel" toolroom workers at the end of next month in support of demands for separate wage bargaining machinery.

However, 9,000 workers employed in the group's truck and bus division yesterday voted by a narrow majority to end their two-week strike over pay.

At the same time senior executives of the company were in discussions with national union leaders, including Mr Hugh Scanlon, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and Mr Moss Evans, secretary designate of the Transport & General Workers' Union, over proposals for a radical reshaping of wage bargaining procedures.

Some progress appears to have been made and the worsening financial situation may influence union attitudes towards the reform of plant bargaining procedures.

But time is running out for British Leyland. By the middle of November the NEB expects to be considering revised development plans produced by the company. Unless much progress is made by then, the company's financial situation may be such that it will be unlikely to survive in its present form.

That much was underlined by Mr Murphy yesterday who made clear that no other money would be forthcoming to support working capital requirements.

"The question of releasing any further sums within the £100m approved will depend upon the view we take of British Leyland's forward plans in November and progress on industrial relations reforms," he said.

The NEB said that the £50m loan would be repaid at 13½ per cent.

It was being emphasized last night that the Mini programme was not being stopped nor was it being frozen.

A senior spokesman for British Leyland said: "We would have dearly loved to have used the money for forward investment. That is what we are here for—but we need it for working capital."

## Minister resigns over surrender to hijackers

From Peter Hazelhurst

Tokyo, Sept 29  
Bowling to the demands of Red Army terrorists, the Japanese Government decided today to hand over seven failed radical prisoners, two common criminals and \$5m (£3.5m) in ransom money to five hijackers who have threatened to murder 146 hostages on board a Japanese DCS airliner at Dacca airport.

The decision was taken this morning after the Japanese Cabinet was informed that the terrorists would begin to kill the passengers—starting with an American banker—if their demands were not met by a deadline set of 5 pm (GMT) today.

The Cabinet decided at a further emergency meeting tonight—four hours before the deadline in Dacca expired—that it would not be able to fly the nine prisoners from Tokyo to Bangladesh until tomorrow. At the earliest the nine prisoners will leave Tokyo tomorrow at 4 am—10 hours after the Dacca deadline.

Mr Hajime Fukuda, the Minister of Justice, submitted his resignation tonight, accepting responsibility for "a situation where prisoners are being

Continued on page 8, col 3



This Canadian landscape by Prince Andrew is among 50 works of art by past and present members of the Royal Family which will be on public show in the Curfew Tower at Windsor Castle from tomorrow until October 9.

## Grunwick strikers seek to start new bout of mass picketing

By Robert Parker

The 13-month-old Grunwick dispute, in which there has been a lull for the past few weeks, came to life again yesterday.

The strike committee, in a decision that surprised many people, including union leaders, decided to organize daily mass picketing again from October 17.

The committee yesterday sent out nearly 1,000 letters and telegrams asking trade unionists throughout the country for full support.

The committee's decision, which was made without consultation with the Association of Professional, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex), representing the 91 strikers, came after a meeting of the TUC General Council on Wednesday.

There was what one member called "a revolt from the floor" against Mr Len Murray's soft line on blacking public services, such as the post, water and electricity, at Grunwick.

Mr Jack Jones, of the Transport and General Workers' Union, Mr Hugh Scanlon, of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, Mr Kenneth Gill, the AEUW's Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Section, and Mr Alan Sapper, of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, in particular, pushed for a stronger line.

That was reflected in the general council's decision to ask the union executives to involve such as the Union of Post Office Workers, to do all that they could.

Mr Kamlesh Gandhi, chairman of the strike committee, said that even if the service unions started blacking before October 17, a mass picket

would be held. But it would be more of a celebration than a demonstration, and would be held probably for only one day.

Mr Roy Grantham, the general secretary of Apex, who was surprised by yesterday's picket decision, has so far been reluctant to ask other union leaders to block public services because such action is illegal. The Union of Post Office Workers has given a court undertaking not to interfere with mail to Grunwick.

Mr Grantham, in a meeting arranged a week ago, will talk to the strike committee this morning. He has not favoured a renewal of mass picketing, partly because it does not achieve the objective of beating Grunwick, and partly because it results in adverse public opinion.

During the two weeks of mass picketing in June, Mr Grantham was summoned before Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, and the Government's attitude, as a result of that meeting, Mr David McNee, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, every morning thereafter to inform him of the position.

The strike committee decision is also a result of its fears that the official trade union movement has not done all it should to get Grunwick to accept the Scarman report, which said the dismissed workers should be reinstated.

The decision to start picketing again was endorsed later by Brent Trades Council, which has been advising the Grunwick strikers. The south-east region of the TUC is expected soon to issue a statement that there can be no question of letting the dispute peter out in defeat.

An important question is whether Apex will decide to back the mass picket, which seems unlikely. It is also clear that Mr Murray and the Government are particularly anxious about mass picketing or illegal blacking, because of the effect it could have on Labour's chances in a sudden election.

If Apex, the TUC and the Government do not support the picketing, the strikers and pickets will find themselves far more isolated than they did before. But even if the TUC said publicly it was opposed to mass picketing, a sizable proportion of the general council would not agree and would probably show their feelings that "something ought to be done".

Although Mr George Ward, the Grunwick managing director, did not want to comment yesterday on the new picket threat, the company feels able to survive further pressure.

It has already withstood two weeks of picketing, and has arranged to deal with a blacking of public services. A large generator has been bought, plans have been made for water supply (which would be difficult to cut off because residents in the area would also be affected) and the company says it can deal with incoming and outgoing post.

The busy season for Grunwick is past, however, and will not start again until the sun of next year.

## MP's missing mail

The Post Office has started an inquiry into the disappearance of post addressed to the home of Mr William Whitlock, Labour MP for Nottingham, North. A few of the letters were found in a garden a quarter of a mile away.

## Backing for Concorde by US appeal court

From Michael Leapman

New York, Sept 29

The Concorde cleared another legal hurdle today in its battle to be allowed to use John F. Kennedy International airport in New York. A federal appeals court upheld last month's decision of a lower court that the New York Port Authority, which controls the airport, is being unreasonably slow and obstructive in failing to set noise standards for the Anglo-French supersonic airliner.

The appeals court ordered that the airport's ban on Concorde should be lifted in three weeks' time. Within that period, however, the Port Authority is almost certain to make a fresh appeal, possibly to the Supreme Court. Flights cannot begin until the seemingly inexhaustible legal procedures are completed.

Today's ruling, written by Chief Judge Irving Kaufman, stated that Concorde should be allowed to use Kennedy airport on the same terms as it is now allowed into Dulles airport, Washington.

New York could, it said, set its own non-discriminatory noise standard for all aircraft, but in the absence of these it ought to comply with Federal standards. Last week President Carter announced that Concorde would be allowed to fly out of New York and 12 other American airports at its present noise level.

Concorde can meet the present noise standard at Kennedy for older aircraft and groups of residents in the airport area have criticized the Port Authority for being laggard in setting standards for supersonic jets. Their criticism and anger will grow more shrill as a result of today's ruling, and demonstrations of opposition to the airliner are likely.

The appeal court's favourable ruling was expected after the tone of Judge Kaufman's remarks at the hearing last week. He said: "I cannot help but have the feeling that the Port Authority does not want to come to grips with this thing. It is a question of putting it off as long as you can because of tremendous pressure."

He reiterated this feeling more forcibly in his ruling yesterday. "To this day the Port Authority has demonstrated total resistance in responding to the airlines' (British Airways and Air France) desire to secure a fair test of their aircraft in New York."

Moreover, it is plain from its public statements that the Authority has no intention to resolve this critical issue in the foreseeable future. We cannot countenance such obstruction."

John Young writes: Welcoming the decision last night, British Airways said in London that the way now seemed clear to start scheduled services, in association with Air France, in late November.

The immediate plan was to discuss with the New York Port Authority and the Federal Aviation Authority a schedule for proving flights, which were necessary for all scheduled services could begin. Such proving flights would be jointly operated by the two airlines and the manufacturers.

Meanwhile, it was announced that Laker Airways is to be allowed to operate two Skytrain services a day next summer between London and New York. But only one of the aircraft will be a DC10. The other will be a Boeing 707.

The Civil Aviation Authority announced yesterday that it had decided to remove the frequency restriction from Laker's licence, since it was now superfluous in view of the airline's declared plans.

## Survey finds old heads on younger shoulders

By Alan Hamilton

The young generation of today is less interesting than has been supposed, judging from a survey conducted by a London advertising agency. The 800 young people who took part revealed themselves as conservative in attitude, content with their lot, and outstandingly dull.

British youth is predominantly home-loving and loving, gets on well with its parents, has little truck with fringe politics, expects to get married, spends its money on ice cream, chips, alcohol and consumer durables, and believes that health, humour and honesty are more important than being beautiful, slim or rich.

The McCann-Erickson agency, which interviewed a representative national sample between the ages of 10 and 25, concludes that the results overturn widely held misconceptions that young people are fun-loving, unconcerned and discontented.

Miss Ann Burdus, the agency's vice-chairman, said in London yesterday that she felt her future was in good hands. One of her assistants observed: "Young people are more boring than we think."

Those interviewed were mostly satisfied with their education. The least content were older schoolgirls, who thought their schooling only fair or worse; schoolboys were much happier with their tuition, and most students in higher education thought it was good or excellent. The agency, which has conducted similar surveys on the Continent, found the British more content with their education than anyone else in Europe.

The cherished image of the young overthrowing the established political order is also demolished. Only 5 per cent of the sample said they would vote for a radical political party; the rest would either stick with the three main parties, or not vote at all, or had no ideas on the subject.

Old-fashioned attitudes predominated on many social questions. The young are apparently intolerant of the unemployed. The majority thinking that those out of work could find a job if they really tried, and that in spite of one-tenth of those interviewed being themselves without work.

More than half thought that hanging should be brought back, and almost all were in favour of stiffer penalties for terrorists and hijackers, of more restrictions on immigration, and of a reduction in aid to developing countries.

There were liberal views on some moral questions. Although most expected to get married, well over half said that divorce was not only morally right, but that they could see themselves indulging in it in suitable circumstances. Almost three quarters thought that extramarital sex was right.

Questions on other moral questions were tougher: most thought it wrong to smoke marijuana, travel on buses without paying, or steal. Almost half said that it was wrong to smoke cigarettes and that they would not do so.

The moral fibre weakens a little when it comes to stealing from the Government; although only 17 per cent thought it wrong to avoid paying tax, well over a third thought they might do so at some stage.

## MPs indict waste of public cash

Pat Healy, and  
Iain Roper

Scandalously high sums are being wasted because control of public expenditure has slipped away from Parliament. Mr Howard de Crespigny, MP, chairman of the influential all-party committee of Public Accounts, said yesterday.

He was speaking at a press conference to introduce a report disclosing that £11m was last year to correct the galling design of Liverpool General Hospital, that a niger sum was overpaid on civil security benefits and that £10m was being spent on jobs for those who most needed help.

"It is my ambition and determination that parliamentary control is restored and further that it is effective in the national interest," Mr de Crespigny said.

The report, the penultimate for the 1976-77 session, covers education, the health service, social security and employment. It is critical of the departments

possible. On social security, the report's £10.8m was overpaid in 1976, compared with £4m in 1970, when the committee looked at the subject. The waste was due mainly to inattention in the intervening years. Of the total, £5m related to supplementary benefits and £5.8m to national insurance.

The report says that fraud or suspected fraud by means was responsible for £2.6m of £2.6m, £2.9m paid to mistakes by managers and £5.2m to other errors, including official error. In 1976, just over 19,000 recouped had been com-

ed, with convictions in 98 per cent of cases. The main offence was drawing benefit while working. Although the report adds "absolute overpayments for absolute

## Move to stop neutron bomb defeated

The American House of Representatives defeated a move by opponents of the neutron bomb to exclude it from an Energy Development Bill. The vote, 297 to 109, came after an emotional debate during which opponents of the weapon argued that its deployment in Europe would make nuclear war more likely. The neutron bomb is designed to kill troops by radiation without the intense heat and explosive power of conventional nuclear weapons. The anti-neutron move took the form of an amendment proposed by Democrats which would have barred funds for the development of the weapon from the Bill, which provides for an unspecified amount of money for initial production of neutron artillery shells and warheads.

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## Warning by DPP over poem

The Director of Public Prosecutions gave a warning of possible prosecution if the blasphemous poem "The Love that dares to speak its name" is published again. The DPP recently received a copy of a circular which called on publishers and others to reproduce the poem.

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## £8,300 paid for bottle of wine

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## Tax reforms seen as lure for the Liberal voter

From Hugh Noyes

Parliamentary Correspondent

The Liberal assembly yesterday came a stage nearer to approving the plans of Mr John Pardo, the party's economics spokesman, to abolish the income tax and transferring taxation from the worker to the employer by means of a payroll tax. A final report from the party's taxation committee will be ready "in not less than three months".

Introducing an interim report in his usual flamboyant style, Mr Pardo stated that the present tax system in Britain was a mess and that the chief wrong was the high burden borne by income tax.

But perhaps the best comment on the radical proposals for the reform of the entire taxation and social security system came from a fellow MP, Mr Richard Wainwright. "Keep the peasants quiet with gifts and material blessings and then they won't get up to democratic mischief," he remarked scornfully to the assembly.

However, before Mr Pardo and Mr Wainwright start slaughtering each other, it should be pointed out that Mr Wainwright's scorn came in a later debate and was directed at Sir Keith Joseph and his reform of the National Health Service rather than at the taxation dreams of the MP for Cornwall, North.

Nevertheless, it was clear from the reaction of speakers in yesterday's debate that the great attraction of these reforms was the incentive they would give to the average Englishman, not, as Mr Pardo hopes, to work harder, longer and more effectively, but to ease his vote for the Liberal Party.

Verdicts on the report varied from "appalling", "reactionary" and "bogus" to "a terrific interim statement". But, whatever the views of delegates, the proposals were universally accepted as a vote-catcher.

The establishment of a cooperative development bank to promote the setting up of new common ownership enterprises was urged in a motion approved by the assembly.

Mr Ralph Sanicroft (Harrow, Central), moving the motion, said the very industrial society was run needed radical overhaul. The patching up of a system based on nineteenth-century principles was no longer acceptable.

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## HOME NEWS

## MPs want the consequences of higher university tuition fees to be carefully monitored

By Sue Reid, of The Times Higher Education Supplement

A House of Commons committee has issued a warning to the Department of Education and Science that higher tuition fees may affect demand for university places and the normal process for the selection of candidates.

In a report published yesterday the Public Accounts Committee recommends that the DES and the University Grants Committee should carefully monitor the direct and indirect consequences of the increases as a guide to future policy on the level of fees.

It welcomes the proposed increases in tuition fees for overseas students from richer countries and urges the DES to

examine the case for increasing the number of "home-based" students as a matter of urgency.

A student's choice of university may often be governed more by personal considerations than by academic ones. In our view the desirability of a student's freedom of choice must also be weighed against the greater cost to public funds of maintaining a student living away from home.

The report indicates that universities have not been unfairly treated financially. "It seems to us that in the country's present financial circumstances grants, which have enabled the universities to maintain their expenditure per student at about the 1971-72 level in real terms, cannot be regarded as having imposed

an unfair burden on the university sector."

The UGC was undertaking a review of the university financing system, and this should not only analyse the universities' costs but also provide the basis for the DES to make an appraisal of whether the present system is the most appropriate to meet today's essential needs.

The committee recommends that the DES and the Treasury should examine the existing grant arrangements to see if a simplification could reduce administrative costs while "preserving the equitable distribution of the total funds available to meet the needs of the universities and their students."

Committee of Public Accounts, Stationery Office, £3.60.

## Mr du Cann calls for more claims checks

Continued from page 1

amounts were large, they amounted to only 0.12 per cent (or 1p in £8) of total benefit expenditure.

Mr du Cann said that the prosecution figures were equivalent to 300 cases in every parliamentary constituency, but the amount involved was small compared with the overall levels of payment.

"I have no doubt that this whole subject is a matter of great public concern," he said. "People will be reassured by the figures we have produced, but there is obviously room for tightening up."

The report urges that maximum use should be made of computers to detect fraud, because the committee feels that there is not enough cross-checking with information available in the Department of Health and Social Security. It urges an intensive study to be made to secure adequate documentary evidence of unemployment now that the national insurance stamp card is no longer used.

"We find it difficult to accept that the present checks, covering the area in which it is common ground that the largest number of overpayments of benefit are discovered, are as effective as the old," the report says.

The committee was concerned that about half the overpayments were due to official error, partly because of the system's complexity. It says the long-term aim should be to avoid unnecessary complexity; meanwhile every effort should be made to simplify arrangements.

The overpayment rate shown in the report is almost exactly the same as when the committee last studied the matter, although in the intervening six years many more people have claimed and many new benefits have been introduced. The Supplementary Benefits Commission has shown that errors by officials produce as many overpayments as overpayments.

Mr du Cann said he assumed the processes had been tightened up and the rate of overpayments should have been falling. Any waste, particularly in a time of financial stringency bearing heavily on most people, was a matter of public concern. The report expressed "outrage" that in the building of the Liverpool Teaching Hospital expenditure of about £11m had become necessary to make it safe for occupation.

The committee accepted that the standard of fire precautions had improved greatly, but said the defects included inadequate or badly sited escapes.

## Mixed ward complaint is upheld

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Fourteen out of 33 complaints investigated by Sir Idris Pugh, the Health Service Commissioner, between April and July, were found to be partly or wholly justified.

His report, published yesterday, said that the Health Service Commissioner had been told that a mixed-sex ward was inadequate in the provision of facilities for patients.

Although she objected, no practical alternative could be offered.

In the complainant's view privacy was inadequate. There had been separate only by curtains, and the ward area was open to men and women.

The patients' sitting room was between the male and female lavatories, which, she said, caused particular embarrassment to the administration of laxatives and enemas.

The ward sister acknowledged that some patients were surprised when they arrived in the mixed-sex ward, but none had refused to accept the situation and no male patients had been asked to leave.

Sir Idris says that although it was proper for the authorities to provide mixed-sex accommodation, he was not satisfied that adequate provision was made in the particular hospital for the minority who found the arrangement distasteful. Every patient should be given the opportunity, before arriving, to discuss arrangements and to make an informed choice. He invited the authority to find ways of putting this into effect.

The report criticises a consultant who ignored for 10 months letters from the mother of a severely disabled child. He said he decided not to reply because he could add nothing to what he had told the mother and father.

Sir Idris says the consultant's decision must have added to the mother's distress. He could have said that he provided the mother with the opportunity to discuss the situation and to make an informed choice. He invited the authority to find ways of putting this into effect.

The consultant had been asked to apologise to the complainant. Report of the Health Service Commissioner, April to July 1977 (Stationery Office, £2.10).

## Mr Lynch gets on well with Mrs Thatcher

Mr Lynch, the Irish Prime Minister, reported the establishment of a "valuable rapport" after lunching yesterday at the Irish Embassy in London with Mrs Thatcher, leader of the Opposition.

He is also understood to have got on well at their first meeting with Mr Airey Neave, the chief Conservative spokesman on Northern Ireland, whose previous comments have not always found favour in Dublin.

Mr Lynch had a long meeting with Mr Callaghan on Wednesday night. The apparent success of the two sets of discussions has nurtured hopes of a new unity on Northern Ireland between senior politicians in Westminster and Dublin.

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Men, women (at rear) and dogs of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps marching through Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, after receiving the freedom of the borough yesterday.

## Moderates in the Labour Party, 2: The Manifesto Group

## Giving intellectual credibility to policies

One of the most successful enterprises associated with the recent resurgence of moderates in the Labour Party is undoubtedly the Manifesto Group in Parliament. Set up at the end of 1974, the group now includes about 70 MPs and 20 peers.

It has already achieved a dominance over its better known and longer established rival, the Tribune Group of left-wing Labour MPs, which was set up in 1965.

The Manifesto Group now holds all six seats on the vital liaison committee between the Government and the Parliamentary Labour Party, having ousted such staunch campaigners on the left as Mrs Judith Hart and Mr Frank Alderman.

Like the other moderate organisations in the Labour Party, the Manifesto Group is distinctly youthful in composition. Most of its members are in their early forties, and the secretary, Mr Ian Wigglesworth, is only 38.

The assistant secretary, who is paid through a grant from the Rowntree Trust to be full-time administrator and researcher for the group, is Mr John Wakefield, a

24-year-old Oxford English graduate, who came to the job via a postgraduate economics course at the London School of Economics.

The need for a rallying of moderate Labour MPs in Parliament became apparent in the period between the two elections of 1974. After a long period when the right had dominated the parliamentary party there was a serious lack of left-wingers in the February election.

The immediate impetus for the formation of the Manifesto Group came from the election of Mr Ian Maitland to the chairmanship of the Parliamentary Labour Party. Moderates realised that they must beat the Tribune Group at its own game.

The setting-up of the group in December, 1974, signalled, in the words of its vice-chairman, Mr John Cartwright, "the start of a new era of out and out organising."

The name of the group is significant. It feels that the Labour Party in Parliament should stick to the manifesto on which it was elected and not try to introduce new policies beyond it. The Manifesto Group sees its role primarily as supporting the Government, not just in a blind fashion like

eighteenth-century placemen but because it believes that the Government's approach is right.

As Mr Wakefield puts it: "We want to give intellectual credibility to what the Government is doing. The Government is not very good at explaining and defending its own policies."

The main contribution the Manifesto Group has made is that direction is a series of impressively argued papers, mostly on economic policy. They have emphasized the importance of wealth creation, restraining public expenditure and, more recently, holding down wage claims to within the Chancellor's limits.

The most important of the group's documents, *What We Must Do: A Democratic Socialist Approach to Britain's Problems*, was published last March. It rejected both Conservative and Marxist strategies for Britain's future and argued that only a democratic socialist approach could bring about the radical changes required and still preserve individual liberties.

The Manifesto Group certainly contains a formidable amount of talent. The authors of *What We Must Do* included

Mr David Marquand, Mr John Mackintosh, Mr John Horan, Mr Bryan Magee, Mr John Roper and Mr Giles Radice.

There is some concern in the group at the departure from the House of Commons of such articulate social democrats as Mr Marquand and Mr Brian Walden, but it is still confident that it remains a definite intellectual and numerical

majority over the Tribune Group.

In Parliament itself, the moderates in the Labour Party seem to be winning the battle against the left. That is due partly to the outwards of the Manifesto Group, and also to the extent to which Mr Callaghan has pulled the party to the right. As Mr Wakefield says: "The way Jim has run things since he took over has certainly raised the spirits of the right side of the party."

But although they have won the battle in Westminster, the Labour moderates are under no illusions that they have achieved victory elsewhere. It is outside Parliament, in the constituencies and in individual MPs, that the right is really on between left and right.

Next: The campaign for Labour victory

## Performance sacrificed to save operas next week

By Annette Ferriman

Cancellation of the 1,600-seat performance of *The Trojan* at Carthage at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, tonight, is to ensure that six performances of Don Carlos starting next week were safeguarded.

Mr Paul Findlay, assistant general administrator at the Royal Opera House, said yesterday that the cancellation was a necessary sacrifice to ensure that the six performances of *Don Carlos* starting next week were safeguarded.

Mr Findlay said yesterday that tonight's performance had been cancelled in the best interests of the public. "If we had not cancelled it, it is unlikely that we would have been able to put on *Don Carlos* next week."

Some overtime was usually worked by the orchestra and the seven-session week meant that much rehearsal time and one performance would be lost, he said.

People who have booked seats for *The Trojan* tonight are able to exchange them for a later date or have their money refunded.

The dispute with the Musicians' Union, which also involves the English National Opera, is complicated by a dispute about the settlement should come under phase two of the Government's pay code.

Musicians' contracts normally date from the beginning of the theatre's season. In the English National Opera's case,

that is July. Within phase two, the Royal Opera House is to be paid, technically after the code expires.

Mr Findlay said yesterday, however, that the settlement must fall within phase two, because the musicians' last settlement was under phase one and it was against government policy to miss phase two.

Mr John Morton, general secretary of the Musicians' Union, said they were trying to agree as soon as possible.

"The orchestra is not working to rule but is simply working to the best of its ability with full professional dedication and application. What the dispute is revealing is that the musicians need to do considerable overtime for the opera house to run."

He said the average week's pay for an ordinary orchestra member was £84 and a day's work with overtime might begin at 10 am and end at 10.30 pm. It might involve a six-day week.

The Royal Opera House is still negotiating with Equity, the actors' union, over a phase two agreement. It has approached the Department of Employment for guidance over non-pay issues while Equity's basic wage is working nine sessions a week instead of 10.

Equity has agreed with the English National Opera under phase two, but the National has had to submit the details to the Department of Employment and is awaiting the outcome.

## Raiders get £95,000 in tunnel ambush

By a Staff Reporter

A security guard was injured when armed raiders ambushed a security van in the Blackwall Tunnel, London, during the morning rush hour yesterday.

The guard, who was with £95,000 in wage packets which were being delivered from the building of Group 4 Total Security, in Mill Lane Road, Mitcham, to companies in south London.

Shortly before 9 am, two Ford Corsas carrying the £95,000 in wage packets were stopped in the tunnel. The security van had been driven in. About 100 yards in front of the van and a Transit van then overtook the van and forced it to a standstill.

Seven or eight men surrounded the security van and two shots were fired at the van. The security guard was injured.

The injured man, whose name was not given, was taken to hospital but was not badly hurt. The police said the Transit van was abandoned by the tunnel and was not examined.

Mr Charles Rice, manager of Group 4 Total Security, said the van had lost radio contact with company headquarters. He said the van was carrying £95,000 in wage packets for companies in south London.

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## Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts: warm, cold, occluded. Wind: direction and speed. Cloud: in eighths. Rain: in mm. Sunshine: in hours.

7 am: 11°C (52°F). Humidity: 75%. Wind: 10 mph. Cloud: 2/8. Rain: 0.5 mm. Sunshine: 1.5 hours.

10 am: 12°C (54°F). Humidity: 70%. Wind: 12 mph. Cloud: 1/8. Rain: 0.2 mm. Sunshine: 2.5 hours.

1 pm: 13°C (55°F). Humidity: 65%. Wind: 15 mph. Cloud: 1/8. Rain: 0.1 mm. Sunshine: 3.5 hours.

4 pm: 14°C (57°F). Humidity: 60%. Wind: 18 mph. Cloud: 1/8. Rain: 0.1 mm. Sunshine: 4.5 hours.

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10 pm: 11°C (52°F). Humidity: 70%. Wind: 12 mph. Cloud: 3/8. Rain: 0.3 mm. Sunshine: 2.5 hours.

1 am: 10°C (50°F). Humidity: 75%. Wind: 10 mph. Cloud: 4/8. Rain: 0.4 mm. Sunshine: 1.5 hours.

4 am: 9°C (48°F). Humidity: 80%. Wind: 8 mph. Cloud: 5/8. Rain: 0.5 mm. Sunshine: 0.5 hours.

7 am: 11°C (52°F). Humidity: 75%. Wind: 10 mph. Cloud: 2/8. Rain: 0.5 mm. Sunshine: 1.5 hours.

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## £8,300 for Chateau Lafite, 1806 vintage

By Geraldine Norman

A single bottle of Chateau Lafite of the 1806 vintage was sold at Christie's yesterday for £8,300, thus becoming the most expensive bottle of wine ever publicly sold. It is believed to be one of only two bottles of early nineteenth-century Lafite in private hands; the other was auctioned in New Orleans last year for \$12,000 (£7,800).

The purchaser was Mr. Ad. Bassin, owner of McArthur Liquors, of Washington, D.C. who is regularly a big buyer of wines at Christie's. He said that he had bought the wine on behalf of a private collector whose name he could not disclose. He would take it to Dallas, Texas soon.

The bottle is not to be consumed immediately. It will on exhibition at Mr. Bassin's shop for the next few days. In spite of its immense price, the wine is in fine condition, the wine in the bottle is still very much for drinking.

Christie's have had a fine hand report on a bottle of wine drunk a few years ago in Paris. "Naturally some of the wine was lost," it says, "but the wine was so good with no decay or oxidation, it was a real pleasure to drink."

The wine is in the original hand-blown bottle which has a pleasing label, reminiscent of the "Leaning Tower of Pisa" label. The standard Chateau Lafite label, added at a later date, is also in fine condition. The bottle was recorded at the date in 1953.

Portrait: doll. For any who have ever wondered if a picture is worth a thousand words, this is the picture. A portrait of a doll, a masterpiece of the artist's skill, is on display at the Royal Academy, London, from September 1 to October 1. The doll is a masterpiece of the artist's skill, a masterpiece of the artist's skill, a masterpiece of the artist's skill.

Anne Whitely was a Liverpool artist and exhibited her paintings at the first exhibition of the Royal Academy, London, in 1769. Her work was a masterpiece of the artist's skill, a masterpiece of the artist's skill, a masterpiece of the artist's skill.

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## First National Securities Base rate

## First National Securities Limited announces that with effect from 1st October 1977 its base rate for lending is reduced by 1% to 8%

To: First National Securities Ltd., Charlton House, Kenton Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 9HD. Telephone: 01-204 3373.

Post this coupon if you're interested in homeowner loans from £400 to £5,000.

Name: T30/9

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ADVERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

We'll take  
more care  
of you

No. 23

# British airways ANNOUNCE

Friday, September 30, 1977



## Eleven direct business routes into North America

# GET READY FOR EXPORT BOOM!

BRITISH AIRWAYS has played a major role in Britain's march back towards prosperity and the achievement of a record £316 million surplus in the August trade figures.

It has flown out the exporters and flown in buyers and free-spending tourists. And every day British Airways helicopters are helping to speed up the work in the North Sea oilfields.

Now the airline is poised to help exporters attack North America where Britain still had a trade deficit in August.

Prospects for trade there are looking brighter and British Airways is ready to make the most of the expected upsurge in demand for flights across the North Atlantic this winter.

The airline is offering frequent services to 11 destinations in North America, with daily flights to the key cities of New York, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, Washington, Miami and Los Angeles, most by wide-bodied aircraft.

From April, British Airways plans to introduce a daily service with Boeing 747 jumbos to San Francisco - a new right obtained under the recently concluded Bermuda agreement between the government of Britain and the USA.

### Special

According to economic forecasts, the biggest business boom is going to take place in the south and west of the United States.

In this area, British Airways is well placed to serve business travellers through its special interlining arrangements with US airlines.

To the oil industry centre of Houston, for instance, business travellers can fly on British Airways non-stop daily service to Miami, picking up a connecting Continental Airlines flight. Or they can go by the supersonic Concorde to Washington, transferring there to a linking Eastern Airlines service.

British Airways estimates that this supersonic service, even with the change of aircraft, is the fastest way between London and Houston, cutting two-and-a-half hours off the non-stop subsonic time.

### Centres

Through their arrangements with other major US and Canadian airlines, British business travellers can have easy journeys this winter through to such North American centres as New Orleans, Tampa, Dallas/Fort Worth, San Francisco, Atlanta, Orlando, Minneapolis, Denver, Tulsa, San Diego, St. Louis, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Vancouver, Calgary and Quebec.

British Airways has stepped up the frequency of its Concorde flights to Washington to six each week - and the service will become daily from October 1. Incidentally, the Concorde service to Bahrain is being stepped up

## Hilton has a place for the executive

BRITISH AIRWAYS has joined Hilton Hotels and Inns in the United States to offer a special programme designed specifically for executives from the United Kingdom.

Executives can book rooms at any one of the 170 hotels and inns in the chain at the same time that they reserve their seat on British Airways through a Travel Agent or a British Airways Travel Shop.

The booking is confirmed back to them and the room will not be sold to anyone else, no matter how late the traveller arrives.

On arrival the hotel will have the details of the registration so that it is only necessary to go to the quick check desk, or to the assistant manager's desk to be identified as an Executive Programme guest.

And, providing the assistant manager is informed, guests under this scheme may retain their rooms up to 6pm at no extra charge, an obvious bonus for businessmen waiting to fly back to Britain on an overnight British Airways flight.

Depending on hotel grading, the cost per night is \$25, \$35 or \$42 for a single room, plus tax.

to two a week, with a new Friday flight joining the existing Wednesday service on October 7.

British Airways also offers these special features to North America:

- Weekly 747 advanced booking charter flights to New York, with Christmas specials to Toronto and Vancouver.

- A wide range of fares - see the report below.

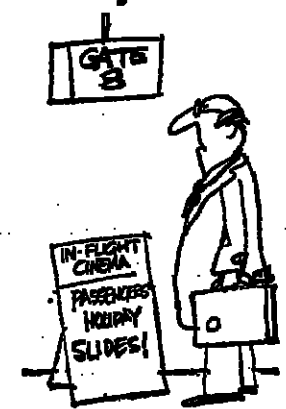
- Reunion clubs for people wishing to visit friends and relatives in both the United States and Canada. Information on the clubs is available through most travel agents, with membership costing £2 a person a year.



The frontline of the battle for exports... At a New York European Fashion Fair, Raymond Lawson (left), Rally Klad sales director, shows a long cashmere knit to three buyers from Pennsylvania. Rally Klad and 33 other British firms at the fair were backed by the British Overseas Trade Board and sponsored by the British Knitting Export Council.

## Fly to the East on the fast Orient 'express'

### Cartoon by Ross



THE fastest flights between London and Singapore on five days each week are operated by British Airways, which has a daily service between the two cities.

Its wide-bodied Boeing 747 jumbos leave Heathrow in the late afternoon or evening each day of the week, and on three days make only one stop on the route. On the remaining days they stop only twice.

Fastest flight time is 14 hours and 40 minutes.

British Airways also has a daily 747 service between London and Hong Kong - another important business route.

The airline flies to the Crown colony ten times each week.

### Announce Reporter

their 747 services being augmented on one day of the week with the always popular VC10.

There are five one-stop flights a week to Tokyo from Heathrow.

## Your chance for a New Zealand club

BRITISH AIRWAYS is considering forming a New Zealand Reunion Club.

Following the success of the American, Canadian and Australian Reunion Clubs, people have asked if one could be started for those who have friends and relatives in New Zealand.

Members of the other clubs are given the latest information on the cheapest approved fares, help in obtaining visas, and expert advice on travel.

There is an attractive finance scheme for buying tickets and a

'comprehensive travel insurance plan. Preferential car hire rates and bargain rates at hotels are also included.

Group flights for members are also arranged - all for a membership fee of £2 a year.

If you are interested in a New Zealand Reunion Club, please send your name and address on the coupon below.

The club can only be organised if sufficient interest is shown by members of the public - so send the coupon off today.

Post coupon today to:  
"New Zealand", 199 Cromwell Road, London SW7 4ED  
I have relatives/friends in New Zealand and would like to receive details of the formation of the New Zealand Reunion Club.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Winter flights to Europe

NEW WINTER schedules on British Airways services into Europe from London Heathrow are being introduced from November 1.

Here are some of the highlights for business travellers:  
PARIS: There will be six flights a day, four of which will be by the wide-bodied TriStar. First-class accommodation is available on all flights.

AMSTERDAM: There are seven flights a day from Monday to Thursday, and six on Friday. There are frequent weekend flights. Some services are operated by TriStar.

BRUSSELS: There are four flights every weekday, and frequent flights on Saturday and Sunday, with TriStar operating some of the early evening return services.

FRANKFURT: There are now three flights on Sunday and every weekday, with two on Saturday. A Super 1-11 flies there each weekday from Manchester.

MUNICH: Two flights on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and one on Tuesday and Saturday.

BERLIN: Frequent flights every day.

BREMEN, STUTTGART and HANOVER: Each has a daily non-stop service.

DUSSELDORF: Three flights a day, Birmingham, Glasgow and Manchester also have flights to Dusseldorf.

HAMBURG: Two flights a day, except Sunday, when there is one.

MILAN and ROME: Two flights a day to each city from Monday to Saturday, and one on Sunday. First-class accommodation is available on all these flights.

TURIN: Four flights a week - on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

STOCKHOLM: The schedule will, for the first time, in winter be a twice daily service.

COPENHAGEN: There are two flights every day, and six of these every week are operated by wide-bodied TriStar.

ZURICH and GENEVA: Three flights to each city every day, except Friday when Geneva has only two.

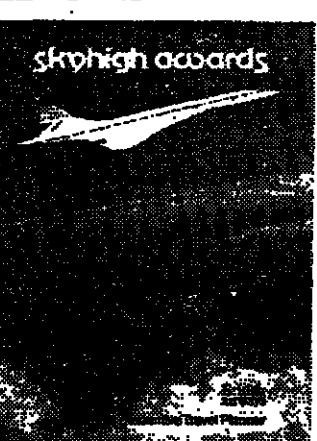
## Make your sales team high-fliers

TRAVEL awards are a great incentive and an excellent way of increasing company productivity, sales, and profits.

Now British Airways, already a leader in this field, has produced an Incentive Travel Planner to back up its excellent Skyhigh Awards Luncheon Brochure.

It gives an eight-step guide to operating an incentive programme.

The Incentive Travel Planner is available from Incentive Travel Department, West London Terminal, Cromwell Road, London SW7 4ED.



## The world is waiting for you at your Travel Agent

When you want to Fly the Flag contact your Travel Agent for passenger information and reservations, or, if you need to call direct, use these telephone numbers:

London (01) 370 5411\*  
Reading (0734) 586883\*  
Horsesham (0403) 61744\*  
Farnham (02522) 82721\*

Guernsey (0481) 24433/8  
Jersey (0534) 22201

Bristol (0272) 298181\*  
Cardiff (0222) 970771\*

Loughborough (0509) 68641\*  
Birmingham (021) 236 7000\*

Manchester (061) 228 6311  
Liverpool (061) 709 0123  
Dunstable (0524) 3606  
Isle of Man (0270) 584317

Brigg (0652) 54791  
Leeds (0532) 446131  
Middlesex (0842) 241645  
Newcastle (0232) 611552

Glasgow (041) 532 8886  
Edinburgh (031) 225 2525  
Aberdeen (0224) 574281  
Inverness (0463) 38871

Belfast (0232) 40622

\*You can call these numbers any time - day or night.

If you wish to write, send your letters to British Airways, West London Terminal, Cromwell Road, London SW7 4ED.

WHY NOT CUT THIS OUT AND KEEP IT?

## Fares are down to New York

NEW FARES have been introduced by British Airways on the London-New York route, and there is now a choice to please everyone.

The two new fares are: **STANDBY FARE:** This costs £64 one way to New York.

Tickets are sold on a one-way basis, only when seats are available - and it's first come, first served.

These tickets can be issued only at the Standby Desk in British Airways Victoria Terminal on the day of departure. Passengers should be there at least two hours before the flight. The terminal is open from 0630.

Full British Airways in-flight service is provided.

For return flights, passengers should go to the Information Desk at the British Airways Terminal at Kennedy

### Announce Reporter

Airport not less than three hours before departure.

The one-way fare from New York will be \$146, (£85).

**BUDGET FARE:** This will cost £69 from London to New York and \$160 (£92) from New York to London. Full payment must be made and open tickets issued at least 21 days before the first day of the week in which the passenger wishes to travel.

The passenger will then be given a confirmed flight at least seven days before departure.

If a passenger cancels there will be a non-refundable charge of £30 a ticket.

These tickets can be bought from Travel Agents or British Airways Travel Shops. Advance booking charter

(ABC) and advance purchase excursion (APEX) fares still offer excellent value.

**ABC FARES:** The advanced booking charter is, in fact, still the cheapest London-New York fare - from £126 to £142 (at Christmas) return.

There is a 46-day advance booking period, and the flights are for various fixed lengths of stay.

**APEX FARES:** The fare from London to New York is £153 return.

Passengers have to reserve APEX seats a minimum of 50 days before departure and stay at their destination between 14 and 45 days.

APEX fares have this important advantage for people with time to book ahead - they are available, not only to New York but to all other cities in the United States and Canada served by British Airways.

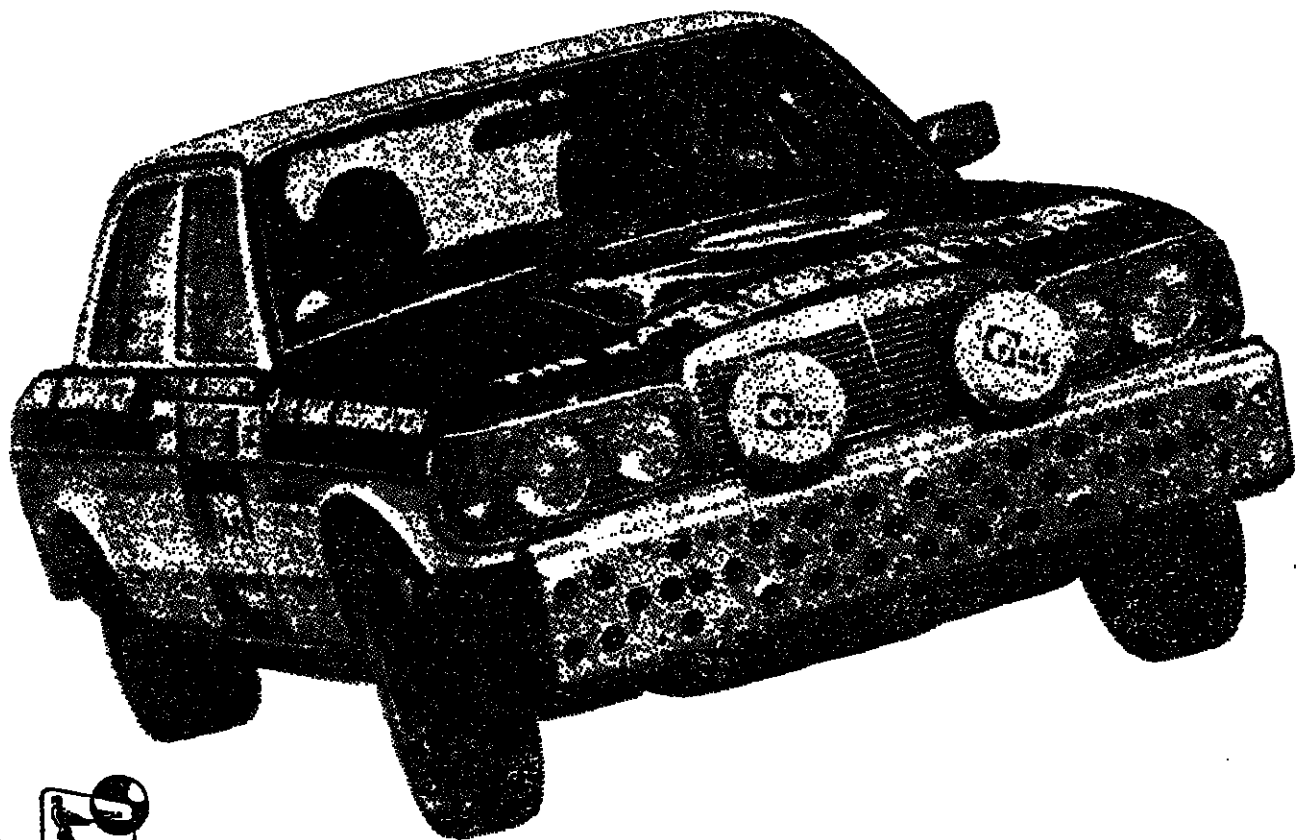


# THE RANK ORGANISATION Winners across the world

Congratulations to  
The Rank Organisation Team

**Andrew Cowan  
Colin Malkin  
Mike Broad**

on their success in winning the Singapore Airlines  
London to Sydney Rally 1977\*



**THE RANK ORGANISATION**

38 South Street, London W.1.

\*Subject to official confirmation

## HOME NEWS

### Prosecution warning by DPP on poem

The Director of Public Prosecutions gave a warning yesterday of possible prosecution if the poem "The love that dares to speak its name", by Professor James Kirkup, is published again.

The poem, about a Roman centurion's homosexual love for Christ at the Crucifixion, appeared in the homosexual newspaper *Gay News*, and led to Mr Denis Lemon, its editor, and the paper being found guilty by a jury at the Central Criminal Court of blasphemous libel.

Mr Lemon was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, and fined £500. *Gay News* was fined £1,000. An appeal against sentence is pending.

The private prosecution was brought by Mrs Mary Whitehouse, of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, and recently she sent to the DPP a copy of a circular which called on radical publishers and others to reproduce the poem.

Mr Anthony Hetherington, the DPP, told Mrs Whitehouse's lawyers that he had no evidence that any publisher had acted on the circular, and he did not at present intend to take action on it.

He added: "Should further publication of the poem in question be brought to my attention, I shall have seriously to consider the question of bringing proceedings." He hoped, however, that pending the result of the appeal all concerned would refrain from any action that would make that step necessary.

The DPP and Mr Samuel Silkin, the Attorney General, had agreed that after the convictions at the Central Criminal Court and subject to appeal, publication of the poem in the manner envisaged by the circular would be a common-law offence. If sent through the post it would contravene section 2 of the Post Office Act, 1953.

The committee was established because ministers are



**Vanishing Britain:** Mr Alan Bristow, who was criticized on Wednesday for his handling of a dispute between his company and the British Air Line Pilots Association, is in a different argument with Waverley District Council over a house he owns in Surrey. Boyards Park, near Cranleigh (above) is listed grade 2 starred. It was originally Elizabethan, although it was extensively enlarged and altered in the early nineteenth century. It was built by Sir George More, Sir Thomas More's cousin, and was once owned by the father of John Evelyn, the diarist.

It has been empty for several years and is said to be deteriorating badly. Mr Bristow applied for consent to demolish it. His application was refused and the council authorized its officers to do emergency repairs. Mr Bristow, who has appealed against the council's refusal, describes it as "a Victorian monastery", and says he wants a more modest home.

I have suggested a meeting with the council at which common sense might prevail but, although I have invited them twice, they have declined to come", he said.

### London police 4,329 officers short

From Peter Evans  
Torquay

The shortage of 4,329 officers in the Metropolitan Police is as great as the total establishment laid down to police the whole of the Home Secretary.

That is stated in evidence being collected by the Police Superintendents' Association for the Home Secretary. The facts were given to the association's annual conference at Torquay this week by Chief Superintendent K. Rivers.

The Metropolitan Police had lost enough men in the past eight weeks to cover a division in Merseyside. Since August 1, 336 policemen had left of whom 223 resigned voluntarily or transferred to another force.

Last year 804 officers left in the first eight months, whereas during the same period this year

the loss increased by 61 per cent.

Figures from the Police Federation, which represents ranks up to chief inspector, also show that at the end of June police forces in England and Wales were 9,012 officers short of authorized strength.

The strength of the Metropolitan Police was now 16.2 per cent below establishment, Mr Rivers added. In 1970 the known crime rate in London was 17,433. "Today we have just 753 men more to deal with a crime rate which has increased by 2,610 per cent over the same period and which will, if the rate of increase for the first six months of this year continues, comfortably pass the half-million mark."

The Metropolitan Police defi-

ciency of 4,329, he continued, was now greater than that of the rest of the forces in England and Wales put together. "The money offered for the job is not considered adequate."

A single police constable in London receiving rent allowance got total gross pay of £66.46 during his first year of service. If he left he could be employed by the force as a civilian, such as a vehicle removal officer, with starting pay of £67.98.

Whitlaw pledge: Mr Whitlaw, the shadow Home Secretary, said in Newcastle upon Tyne yesterday that if the police were still dissatisfied over pay when the Conservatives were returned to power, the Tories would be prepared to set up a commission to look at the position.

### Number of farms declines by a fiftieth each year

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

The number of farms in the United Kingdom is falling fast as land is lost to urban development and redistributed into large holdings. The first detailed official survey of farm sizes since 1968 shows that between that year and 1975 the number fell by about a fifth each year.

The survey gives the first data about farm structure since the Government announced its inquiry a fortnight ago under Lord Worthington, into the pattern of ownership.

The committee was established because ministers are

worried about difficulties faced by landless young farmers and about land purchases by financial institutions and foreign buyers.

In 1969 a tenth of farms each provided employment for at least four men and produced 47 per cent of output. In 1975 such farms accounted for 15 per cent of the national total of holdings and provided 56 per cent of output. Concentration is greatest in England and Wales which have three-quarters of the farms. In 1975 2 per cent of English and Welsh farms together produced 21 per cent of total output.

The Changing Structure of Agriculture, (Stationery Office, £1.50).

### Constabulary chief's glum picture of manpower loss

From Ronald Faux  
Edinburgh

Crime and disorder continued to increase in Scotland last year while the strength of the police force decreased. Mr David Gray, Chief Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, said in his annual report published yesterday.

He said it was by far the gloomiest report he had made and admitted that the police service had lost the attraction it once had for many young men. Of an authorized establishment of 13,162 in Scotland last year, there were 846 vacancies. The loss of 218 officers during probation and 228 trained officers who had retired early,

emphasized the serious position, he said.

The overall crime level last year rose 14 per cent to 264,615. Less serious offences fell slightly but that was a sign of inadequate police patrols. Detection largely depended on a police presence on the streets.

While the Government had always been willing to match with the police grant any money spent on overtime, because of the economic position the police authorities had reduced overtime.

Mr Gray said that members of the federated ranks (inspectors and below) were emphatic that poor pay was at the root of the ills that beset the service.

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### Call for fund to aid not-so-poor litigant

By Our Legal Correspondent

An independent fund should be set up to pay for legal services for people not poor enough to qualify for legal aid, but lacking the means to finance litigation, Justice, the all-party lawyers' body, proposes in a report published today.

The report, based on Justice's evidence to the Royal Commission on Legal Services, suggests that after its initial funding, by means of a single grant, the "Contingency Legal Aid Fund" would be financed by its percentage share of damages awarded to successful litigants. The proposed fund would

have the power to reject applicants with no reasonable prospect of success, but would exercise it sparingly and only in obvious cases. The applicant would be able to choose his own counsel and solicitors.

Justice feels that the proposal, if adopted, "could lead to a substantial improvement in the provision of legal services to those who need them most and can afford them least".

The report also proposes the setting up of a "rescue service" for what it calls the casualties of the law: people who had exhausted a wide range of legal services but remained, justifiably or not, with

an acute sense that they had not been denied justice.

Justice suggests that a central bureau, under the auspices of the Law Society, should be set up. It would be staffed by solicitors' professional, the Bar and the state in equal shares.

It accepts that such a service would attract some "one-off" cases involving people with fanciful grievances, but nevertheless feels that the law would be a reasonable price to pay for being able to help deserving cases.

Lawyers and the Legal System (Justice, 2 Clement's, London, WC2, £1.50).

### Chief officers support firemen's claim

Firemen who are demanding a 30 per cent pay increase were given support yesterday for a "proper assessment" of their wages from the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association.

The association's council said it was extremely concerned that the efficiency of the fire service would be eroded if it was not seen to be as attractive in pay and conditions as other local authority services.

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### Law Commission urges new offence of entrapment

By Our Legal Correspondent

Consideration should be given to making it a crime to invite someone to commit an offence with the object of trapping him and having him prosecuted, the Law Commission suggest in a report published yesterday.

It gives examples of the police or informers persuading and encouraging people to commit crimes they might otherwise not have committed.

The commission concludes, however, that there should not be a legal defence of entrapment which could lead to the acquittal of the offender. It was illogical that a person should have a defence merely because he had been led to commit the crime by someone who was not a genuine fellow criminal.

The possible new offence of entrapment would apply, the commission suggests, when someone takes the initiative in instigating or persuading an-

other person to commit an offence, when he intends that that person should be prevented from successfully completing it.

The report also proposes a new definition of the defence of duress, to be available where the crime is committed by the offender under threat of harm to himself or another.

The Law Commission says that the defence should be successful only where the defendant believes that the harm threatened is death or serious injury (whether mental or physical); that the threat will be carried out immediately or before protection can be sought; and that there was no other way of preventing the harm threatened.

Duress should be available as a defence to all offences, including murder, the commission recommends.

The Law Commission Report (No. 83 on Defence of General Aviation (Stationery Office, £1.50).

### Licences suggested for file compilers

By Kenneth Owen  
Technology Correspondent

The Government should differentiate between "privacy" and "security" in its planned legislation to protect personal information held on computer files, according to the British Computer Society, the Computing Services Association and the Data Processing Management Association.

In a joint submission to the Government's Data Protection Committee, they recommend that an independent licensing authority should be set up to control privacy and security risks.

Privacy would be the responsibility of the user of the information, the organisation or individual on whose behalf pro-

cessing work on personal data files was carried out. Security would be the responsibility of the agency or operator whose computers were used to do the processing.

Thus the independent authority would grant licences to users covering specific uses of personal data and certificates of security to computer agencies permitting work up to stated levels of sensitivity.

The agency must be able to provide security appropriate to the sensitivity of the data, but the three bodies say: "There is no need whatever for the agency to be aware of the uses to which the data will be put."

In the Government's White Paper on computers and privacy two approaches were suggested: a licensing authority

and an ombudsman. The public will find a licensing authority the more reassuring of the two, the three organizations say.

Control of the specific use of personal data, as recommended, will provide intrinsic protection against unauthorized new applications, they argue. It will provide protection regardless of where the work is done and who is responsible.

Any attempt to control data files would be cumbersome and difficult because of the ease of collecting data, that would lead to evasion.

This is the first occasion that three organizations have come together to express a view on data protection. The Data Protection Committee is expected to report early next year.

سكنا من الاصل



## LIBERAL PARTY ASSEMBLY/BRIGHTON

## 'Menace to democracy' of a minority in NUJ

The existence of the closed shop in various newspaper houses led to the danger that the industrial relations law would be applied to the press. The Liberal Party, Lord Wigg, said, was in the House of Lords, said during the debate on industrial democracy.

The reality was that the danger was not in the industrial relations law, but in the concept of the closed shop. It was a danger that would be a menace to democracy, said Lord Wigg, who said that the closed shop was a menace to democracy.

"We have seen growing up in the last few years a dangerous movement, a small body of people, the industrial relations law, who are just as much a menace to democracy and way of life as the National Front."

There must be complete editorial freedom, both from proprietorial and from political considerations. There must be the right of the individual journalist to join the NUJ or the Institute of Journalists, or neither, as he or she preferred. There must be the right of the press to set views freely expressed in the press and a strong press charter effectively protected.

Lord Wigg's comments came while the assembly was deciding the way to the closed shop in industry. After a complicated voting procedure, 352 delegates voted in opposition to enforced closed shop membership, 100 per cent. The assembly then voted in favour of the NUJ's principles. In another vote 231 delegates voted for 100 per cent closed shop membership, 100 per cent. The assembly then voted in favour of the NUJ's principles. In another vote 231 delegates voted for 100 per cent closed shop membership, 100 per cent.

Mr Ian Stewart (North-west Surrey) said the closed shop in industry had been a disaster. He said that the closed shop in industry had been a disaster. He said that the closed shop in industry had been a disaster.

Later in the debate a proposal to the report of the Industrial Democracy Commission on industrial democracy to give employees 51 per cent voting rights in board elections was rejected by 267 votes to 238.

## Conference notebook

## Party principles survive the temptation of 'realities'

principle will out. In spite of a warning from a Liberal Party spokesman that the party would not appear at the party, the assembly preferred to vote to oppose the closed shop.

There were also warnings to head off the industrial relations law. In the Liberal heart carried the ad. And party principles merged intact. Mr John Dancer, the Liberal Party spokesman, said that the party would not appear at the party, the assembly preferred to vote to oppose the closed shop.

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## Pardoe plan to cut income tax to 20% by 1980

Proposals for a "realistic and simple" system of taxation were put forward at the Liberal Party assembly at Brighton yesterday.

The party's spokesman on taxation, Mr John Pardoe, said that the system proposed would enable the party to take full advantage of the opportunities before them.

The main recommendations, in a report of the party's taxation committee, chaired by Mr Pardoe, included:

- A substantial but phased switch from rates on income to a single rate of income tax, by 1980 the standard rate of tax on earned income would be 20 per cent and the highest rate on earned income, 50 per cent.
- The replacement of the employers' national insurance contribution and surcharge (at present 11 per cent) by a payroll tax, increasing from 10 to 21 per cent by 1980, and the increase of VAT from 8 to 10 per cent by 1978.
- A unified system of taxation, exempting all true savings income, treating income and realization of capital alike for tax purposes, and removing the need for separate taxation of capital gains.
- The phased introduction of a comprehensive credit income tax system to ensure everyone a guaranteed minimum income.

## English regions envisaged as federal states

A move to include the setting up of an English parliament in a federal system of government for the United Kingdom was rejected. Instead, a resolution calling for a federal system in which the component states would be Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the English regions was carried overwhelmingly.

An amendment pressing for the "simultaneous" establishment of elected assemblies in Wales, Scotland and the regions was rejected. Mr Richard Wainwright (MP, Colne Valley) moved a resolution, which also proposed that the country of local government would be abolished and the bulk of the powers transferred to the districts in England and Wales.

Mr Wainwright said that millions, whose expectations of government had been severely disappointed in recent years, were now recovering that there was little democracy left. Local government had virtually lost all independence because of almost total government control over expenditure.

"Only a federal Britain can now be a truly democratic Britain," Mr Wainwright continued. At last year's assembly he had proposed a resolution to the effect that the Liberal Party should support a federal system of government.

## by Fred Emery

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It would be a prime recipe for deadlock and strife of the most frustrating kind. The party controlling the federal parliament would be at the mercy of an English parliament controlling 85 per cent of its own resources.

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An amendment pressing for the "simultaneous" establishment of elected assemblies in Wales, Scotland and the regions was rejected. Mr Richard Wainwright (MP, Colne Valley) moved a resolution, which also proposed that the country of local government would be abolished and the bulk of the powers transferred to the districts in England and Wales.

## by Fred Emery

It would be a political suicide, he said, to go to an election proposing an additional tier of government at present. An English parliament, alas, would control 85 per cent of the population and the resources of the whole United Kingdom.

It would be a prime recipe for deadlock and strife of the most frustrating kind. The party controlling the federal parliament would be at the mercy of an English parliament controlling 85 per cent of its own resources.

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## HOME NEWS

## Unions campaign for £2,000m in autumn Budget to restore cuts made in public spending

By Christopher Thomas

Union pressure on Mr Healey, the Chancellor, to inject £2,000m more into public spending is being intensified in the run-up to a possible autumn Budget.

Ten public service unions opened a new campaign yesterday for the restoration of cuts made in recent years. There will be a week of action, starting on November 21, to include a lobby of Parliament and a rally in London on November 23.

The campaign is being closely linked to the need to reduce unemployment, on the argument that an increase in public spending would revive activity in the private and public sectors.

Mr Bernard Dix, assistant general secretary of the blue-collar National Union of Public Employees, said the Government would stand or fall on what it did about unemployment.

At the same time Mr Dix rejected a 10 per cent pay increase for local authority manual workers, which on basic rates suggested no more than 6 per cent. That would mean up to £30.

"Quite simply, it is not on," he said.

## £50-a-week wage sought as safety net for low paid

From Christopher Warman

Mr Alan Fisher, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, told local government leaders yesterday that his members were justifying in seeking a pay increase substantially above the Government's 10 per cent guideline.

The union, which has 400,000 workers in local government, is seeking a minimum of £50 a week compared with the present minimum of £38.50. Mr Fisher said in an address to the joint local government conference: "This is not an outrageous figure. In terms of actual cash, I believe our claim justifies a vote from the government guidelines in order to provide a safety net for lower-paid workers."

He said that the take-home pay of many of his members was less than they would get from staying at home. When the new rates for supplementary benefit are introduced in November, an average family would receive £41.28 a week. Even if NUPE members succeeded in increasing their

basic wage to £50, the take-home pay would be 41p less than that.

"It is not that supplementary benefits are too high, but that wages, particularly in local government, are too low. Anything below a substantial increase would be unacceptable and unacceptable, Mr Fisher said."

The union, together with the Transport and General Workers' Union and the General Municipal Workers' Union, have among them one million manual workers in local government, are due to make their pay settlement in November, and their determination to go above the guidelines will provide a severe test for local government in negotiations.

Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, refused to be drawn on the issue when he addressed the final session of the conference. He said pay settlements must be such that the national earnings increase was no more than 10 per cent. The Government regarded the public sector as crucial to the success of the pay policy. But he appreciated they could not regard it in isolation.

Second, the booklet says the cash limits for 1976-77 were imposed so rigidly that government departments and local authorities underspent by £1,000m.

"This financial background makes it clear that there is scope for an immediate restoration of many of the cuts, even accounting for the limits on public expenditure agreed with the International Monetary Fund." The drop in interest rates had improved the scope for more public spending.

The booklet concluded: "Our campaign has as its primary objective the development of a new consensus: that the social wage is a positive contribution to the wellbeing of all sections of society, and that it is legitimate and desirable to expand our inadequate public services."

By Our Labour Editor

Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' leader, hopes to be "one of the undertakers of the social contract". In an article in *Personnel Management*, he says: "The tragedy since 1974 has been the failure of trade unions to press wage claims because we had a Labour government in power—even though they knew that failure to do so would result in a fall in living standards."

Trade union leaders were prepared to accept policies under a Labour government would have been totally unacceptable had there been a Conservative Administration in office."

Mr Scargill says we are in the third year of incomes policy, and if workers accept the 12-month rule permitting only one wage settlement a year, living standards will have declined by more than 30 per cent.

"I hope to be one of the undertakers of the social contract. We should bury the social contract so deep that no politician or trade union official will be stupid enough to try to resurrect it again."

## ADVERTISEMENT

## The Double Standards Game

WHY IS THE WEST LOOKING THE OTHER WAY?

While the Russians have been wheeling and dealing, supplying arms to both sides and allowing the slaughter of thousands of Black people in the Horn of Africa (Somalia-Ethiopia), the West has been strangely silent.

Yet its vital interests are in peril from Soviet naval and air bases in the area which threaten ocean-going tanker access to the Middle East oilfields.

At the southern end of Africa, however, where the warring factions in Rhodesia pose no such threat to the West, the United States and Britain have a lot to say... and are even talking of oil sanctions.

Such are the incomprehensible double standards of President Carter and his Western Allies.

## Limit on investment in S Africa is urged

A resolution urging government action to limit investment in Southern Africa and to enforce "disinvestment" by British companies was carried by a large majority.

Delegates also decided to urge that after introduction of universal suffrage by proportional representation, the minority could contribute to development of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and had the right to be free from discriminatory laws.

Mr Paul Hannon (National League of Young Liberals) moved the motion which deplored the support for the apartheid system in Rhodesia and urged the Government to take action to limit investment in Southern Africa and to enforce "disinvestment" by British companies.

Mr Roger Pichon (Leominster) moved an amendment, which was carried, stating that after universal suffrage by proportional representation the white minority

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## HOME NEWS

Objectors say reprocessing danger is greater than from reactor

## Impasse over Windscale radioactivity threat

From Pearce Wright  
Science Editor  
Whitehaven

Two of the main participants at the public inquiry into the building of a £600m nuclear reprocessing plant at Windscale have reached an impasse over the assessment of the threat of an accident at the plant. Mr Justice Parker, the inspector, was unable yesterday to resolve the difficulty, which has been present since disagreement was first voiced several weeks ago.

The dispute is between British Nuclear Fuels, which wishes to build the plant, and the Political Ecology Group, represented by Mr Peter Taylor, of Oxford University, with the support of a network of university lecturers and research workers.

At the centre of the argument is a computer programme, TIRION, which is designed to calculate possible deaths after an accidental release of a

cloud of radioactive material. The programme was mentioned in a report last week from the National Radiological Protection Board which assessed possible risks from an accident at a fast breeder reactor and forecast up to 60,000 deaths in the worst circumstances.

Evidence from the Political Ecology Group suggests that a reprocessing plant would be a potential source of radiation similar to, but more serious than, a nuclear reactor. That proposition is based on a study by the West German Institute of Reactor Safety, which examined potential risks if tanks of highly active waste at a reprocessing plant boiled, or if cooling water leaked from storage ponds in which spent nuclear fuel rods are kept for more than a year before reprocessing.

There has been little reason to consider such a nightmare prospect in the United Kingdom hitherto. The risk arises now because the proposed plant

would be for light water reactor fuel from Japan and elsewhere. The way in which these elements are "burnt up" in a reactor creates spent fuel rods containing a far greater amount of radioactive waste than those from existing British power stations. When packed into a cooling pond the light water fuel rods would have an immense amount of energy to dissipate.

Neither British Nuclear Fuels nor the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate have conducted an analysis of the sort of accident suggested by the Political Ecology Group, largely because such a catastrophe is regarded as involving an incredible set of circumstances.

The computer programme, TIRION, devised by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, has become a focal point for the dispute because it provides a general method for forecasting the dispersal of radioactive clouds. A copy of this programme was made available

to the objectors at the request of Mr Justice Parker. The programme has been used for analysis by computer and by mathematicians advising the ecology group, and what appeared to be a fundamental error in the programme has disturbed some of the experts.

That is not their main cause for concern. Their analysis uses assumptions derived from the German study about conditions in a reprocessing plant. British Nuclear Fuels has indicated its intention of challenging some of this work, arguing that conditions at Windscale will be different.

The Political Ecology Group would like data from British Nuclear Fuels about the assumptions needed for Windscale, so that the group or an independent body can prepare forecasts of accident risks.

British Nuclear Fuels would like to deal with the assumptions used by the objectors first before collaborating any further. And there the matter rests.

## Secondment scheme for teachers welcomed

By Diana Geddes  
Education Correspondent

There has been an enthusiastic response from local education authorities to a pilot scheme for 60 teachers of mathematics and science to be seconded for a term to gain first-hand experience in industry. It already looks as if there will be many more candidates than there are places.

The scheme, which is a joint project by the Institute of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, offers a scholarship of £750 to each teacher, £300 of which is to finance a research project or curriculum development once the teacher returns to his or her school, and the rest to cover expenses. The teacher will continue to receive a normal salary from the local education authority.

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has welcomed the scheme as one of several being developed to foster closer links between the schools and industry.

In a letter to Mr Alan Beith, MP for Berwick upon Tweed, Mrs Williams said: "The scheme is exploring all possibilities of extending schemes for teachers to gain experience in industry, but that so far, I am encountering serious problems, not least about financing any such schemes at a time of economic stringency."

The money for the pilot scheme is being put up by members of the two institutions, and also in donations from bodies such as the Leverhulme Trust, GKN and Shell. "Countless offers" have been received from companies who would be willing to give jobs to teachers, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers said.

The scheme is to run for three years during the spring and summer terms. The first intake of 10 teachers is being taken away from schools at a time when there is already a shortage of about 1,600 teachers in those subjects in England and Wales. Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said yesterday that the Secretary of State should look closely at the effects on staff and resources cuts. He insisted that replacement must be found for the seconded teachers.

Not everyone is happy, however, with the idea of science and mathematics teachers being taken away from schools at a time when there is already a shortage of about 1,600 teachers in those subjects in England and Wales. Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said yesterday that the Secretary of State should look closely at the effects on staff and resources cuts. He insisted that replacement must be found for the seconded teachers.

## Discrimination alleged against women

An analysis of jobs found by graduates shows continuing and widespread discrimination against women by employers in many sectors, the National Union of Students says in a submission to the Department of Employment, published today.

Employers appear particularly prejudiced against women graduates in applied sciences, where unemployment is twice that for male graduates, the union says.

There was also evidence that certain types of work, such as personnel and welfare, are regarded as "women's work" while financial work is considered a man's field.

The union admits that women's expectations, as well as employers', may have influenced the pattern of women's jobs. It calls on the Equal Opportunities Commission to be more active in recruitment and for more careers guidance for women at college.

It expresses concern at the high proportion of graduates still seeking permanent jobs six months after leaving university.

## Councillor is cleared of fraud

Hugh Brannan, aged 70, former Labour group leader on the old Lanarkshire County Council, was acquitted at Hamilton Sheriff Court yesterday on charges of defrauding the council and Strathclyde Regional Council of £1,400 by falsely claiming loss of earnings.

Mr Brannan, a member of Strathclyde Regional Council, was found not guilty on the direction of Sheriff Douglas Grant.

## Lost trawler theory

A tarpaulin boat cover believed to be from the Hull trawler, Gaul, which disappeared with all 36 hands off the Norwegian coast in February, was picked up by the Fleetwood trawler Hewitt off northern Norway and has been handed to the Department of Trade, it was disclosed yesterday.

## Mormon case remand

Joyce McKinney, aged 27, and Keith Joseph May, aged 24, both Americans, were further remanded in custody for a week by magistrates at Epsom, Surrey, yesterday, charged with forcibly abducting, assaulting and unlawfully imprisoning Mr Kirk Anderson, a Mormon missionary, at Lower Halstock, Okehampton, Devon.

## Post Office safe theft

A safe containing about £12,000 was stolen by a gang from a sub-post office in Swindon, Wiltshire, on Wednesday night.

## WEST EUROPE



Mitterrand, the French Socialist leader, chats with Herr Brandt (right) in Bonn yesterday before his meeting with Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor, for talks on European questions.

## Chirac magic evokes Gaullist spirit as he attacks Union of Left

From Ian Murray  
Menton, Sept 29

The Gaullist vision of a strong independent France created by strong independent French men and women was conjured up again this evening by M Jacques Chirac, the party leader, before a packed audience of delegates and citizens of Menton.

Evoking the spirit of General de Gaulle, he sought to rise above the present political squabbles by saying: "Our group has frontiers; we ask nothing of the French other than that they do their duty towards France."

He began predictably by attacking the Union of the Left. The conference adjourned from the Casino to the larger Palais d'Europe so the public could witness his expected tongue-lashing and he did not disappoint them.

A Socialist-Communist government would be the end of the French Republic, he said.

He then ended his attack by

ate—would seek to implement ideas that were already out of date when they were formulated in the last century. "Our adversaries have not changed. The menace is the same," he said.

For the Gaullists it mattered not how the Union of the Left formed up to fight next year's election. They were still a real danger to France.

He spent some time attacking nationalisation, the key issue which has put the Union of the Left in peril. The Communists were right, he said, there really was no difference between their ideas on the subject and those of the Socialists, even if the initial scale was different.

Gaullists could envisage the need for nationalisation to prevent a foreign takeover of a French company. But basically the whole idea ran counter to the right to own property.

He then ended his attack by

making a scarcely-veiled criticism of the liberalism of President Giscard d'Estaing and the economic policies of M Barre, the Prime Minister.

Liberalism, he said, no longer faced up to the problems of the country and M Barre's economic measures were moving too slowly to expand the economy sufficiently and to stop unemployment.

Gaullists would therefore stand proudly as Gaullists at the election even though the party would remain loyal to the majority coalition.

M Michel Debré, one of five former Prime Ministers at the conference, had earlier pounded the need for the party to stand up for an independent France. National solidarity, he said, was the key to the problems facing the country.

M Debré's strong defence of an independent France caught the mood of the conference and drew its longest applause.

## EEC move to open trade talks with China

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, Sept 29

Hard on the decision of the EEC and Comecon, the East European economic organisation, to begin formal talks next spring on closer cooperation, the Nine were today asked by the European Commission to authorise the opening of trade negotiations with China, if possible before the end of the year.

The purpose of the negotiations would be the conclusion of a five-year, non preferential agreement of the type proposed by the EEC to all communist countries at the end of 1974. The aim would be to improve mutual access to markets by reducing quotas and other restrictions on trade.

Among the provisions envisaged in the agreement would be to grant the Chinese most-favoured nation status. The creation of a joint committee is also proposed which would meet at regular intervals to review the functioning of the agreement and examine further ways of developing economic relations.

The Commission's request to the Council of Ministers for a negotiating mandate is the result of a successful visit to Peking last July by a team of trade officials who were struck by the strong Chinese interest in a trade agreement. Until then there had been little progress because of China's internal turmoil.

Previous trade agreements between individual EEC member states and China expired at the end of 1974, and since early 1975 the EEC as a whole has unilaterally imposed quantitative restrictions on trade with China and other communist countries. Romania is so far the only other eastern block country to have shown interest in a new trade agreement.

At present China's exports are of only marginal interest to the Nine, and both ideology and self-interest make Peking reluctant to commit itself to a balance of payments deficit. China's trade with the outside world still accounts for less than 5 per cent of its national product and only about 2 per cent of world trade.

The EEC is already China's second biggest trading partner after Japan. The latest year for which reliable figures are available here is 1975, when the EEC imported products worth \$742m (£424m) from China and exported \$1,322m (£755m), leaving the Chinese with a deficit of \$580m (£331m).

With the ousting of the radical "gang of four", there is evidence that the principle of self-reliance is now being interpreted more flexibly to mean, in the words of the People's Daily, "China can learn much from the experience and products of other countries".

Peking's preference, however, is for trade by barter, with imports of capital goods and factories being paid for by exports of raw or semi-processed materials produced or exploited by these installations.

## Miles beats Smyslov

Telbury, Holland, Sept 29.—Tony Miles of Britain beat Vasily Smyslov, the Soviet world chess champion, in the fifth round of the Interpolis tournament yesterday. He now shares the lead with four other players, including Anatoly Karpov, the present champion.

## Gulf grows wider between parties of French left

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Sept 29

The open rift in the Union of the Left caused by the breakdown of the summit negotiations last week has grown wider after the press conference of M Francois Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, and a speech by M Georges Marchais, the secretary of the Communist Party, at a mass meeting in Paris last night.

Both proclaimed their loyalty to the Union of the Left but refused to budge an inch from their respective positions, and both appealed to the mass of left-wing voters for support against the other.

It is now clearer than ever that Socialists and Communists have widely different concepts of the kind of society that a government of the left should seek to establish. Even if they do manage to piece together the broken china of their union, it is likely to be no more than a union to win the parliamentary elections next March.

M Mitterrand emphasized last night that the argument was not only about nationalization but about collectivization and state bureaucracy. M Marchais insisted that the scope of nationalization was closely linked to social policy.



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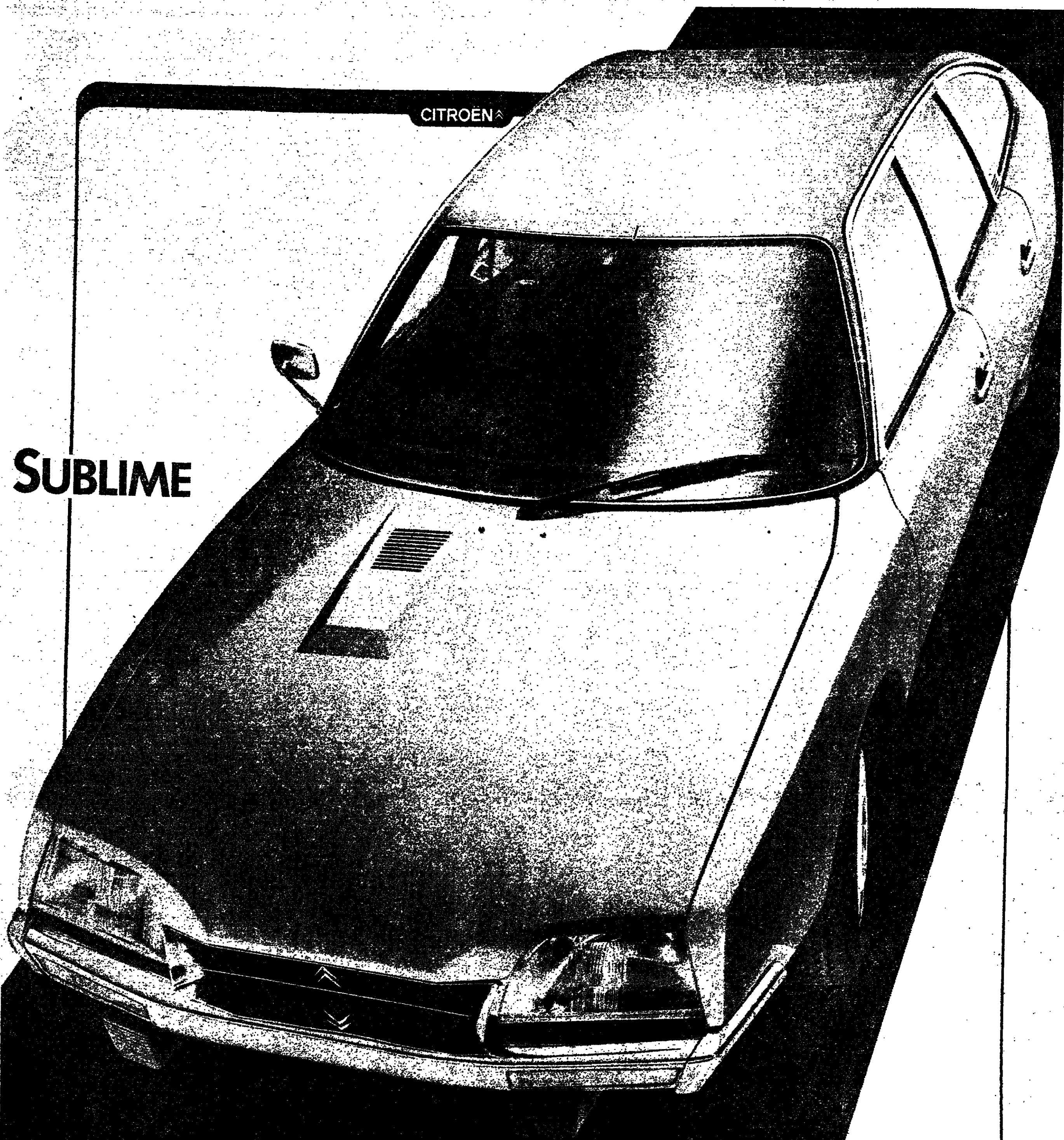
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## WEST EUROPE

# Royal decree grants reinstatement of Catalan home rule

From William Chislett  
Madrid, Sept. 29

A royal decree reestablishing the Generalitat, the Catalan autonomous government suppressed by General Franco during the Civil War, is being enacted tonight by a special session of the Spanish Cabinet. The decree was approved unanimously today by the parliamentary committee for urgent legislation.

Señor Suárez, the Prime Minister, called the Cabinet meeting last night after agreement had been reached in Perpignan, France, with Señor Josep Tarradellas, the Generalitat president in exile, and Catalan politicians for the provisional reestablishment of the Generalitat while full terms are worked out under a new constitution.

Under the agreement Señor Tarradellas, who is 78, will return to Barcelona to preside over a new Generalitat, which will include representatives of the main political parties, seven advisers and a representative from each of the four provincial delegations which make up Catalonia.

The signatories promised to respect the principle of the unity of Spain and agreed that the provisional reestablishment of the Generalitat would not condition its future make-up when the constitution is drafted.

The reference to the "unity of Spain" was probably inserted into the agreement in order not to alarm conservative

members of the armed forces who are opposed to autonomy on the ground that it means "breaking up" Spain.

Earlier this month more than a million Catalans paraded through the streets of Barcelona to celebrate their national day and demand the restoration of the Generalitat. The agreement comes after tortuous discussions and squabbles among the different Catalan parties.

Señor Suárez may decide, once the Generalitat is back, to appoint a minister for Catalonia. In the June general election his Democratic Centre Union party did badly in Catalonia where the Socialists and Communists won most of the seats.

If Señor Jordi Pujol, leader of the liberal Democratic Convergence of Catalonia, could be persuaded to enter the Government, Señor Suárez's position in the Cortes would be strengthened. So far the Government's attempts at winning Catalan support have been met with demands for the restoration of the Generalitat, among other things.

Madrid, Sept. 29.—Under the decree all questions of administration and local government will be decided by the 15 ministers of the Generalitat. Foreign affairs, defence questions and state budgetary matters will be decided by the Madrid Government.

The Catalan Premier will be nominated by the Cabinet and named by the King. He will be both the representative of the Catalan people and a type of high commissioner for the Spanish Government in the region. —Agence France-Presse.

## Sugar states agree on quotas

Geneva, Sept. 29.—The main sugar-exporting countries reached agreement today on world market quotas only one day before a 72-nation conference for a new sugar trade treaty was due to end here.

Sources said Cuba, Brazil and Australia accepted a compromise on tonnage for their annual exports which gives Cuba a quota of 2.5 million tons, and Brazil and Australia each 2.35 million tons.

The formula still requires the approval of other sugar-exporting nations represented at Geneva, many of them developing countries. Once this is given, the exporters will meet importing countries to work out a new sugar treaty.

The dispute between the three largest exporters over their quotas had held up discussion on all other aspects of the agreement. —AP.

## Youths escape from Italian prison

L'Aquila, Italy, Sept. 29.—Three teenage prisoners, one of them held on a murder charge, escaped from a jail here today, five days after six people got away from the same prison. —Reuters.

## W German officers said to have sung Nazi songs

From Our Own Correspondent  
Bonn, Sept. 29

The Defence Ministry has ordered an investigation into a report that a group of West German army officers played at "burning Jews" during a drinking session in Munich earlier this year.

According to the report, published in today's *Frankfurter Rundschau*, eight or 10 drunken officers wrote "Jew" on a piece of cardboard, threw it on the fire, shouted "Sieg Heil" and sang Nazi songs as it burned.

The participants were all studying at the Munich army college where West German officers take university-level courses, the newspaper said. It claimed that they also scarified swastikas over their essays.

Herr Georg Leber, the

Defence Minister, said there should be no place for neo-Nazi students either in the officer corps or the army's colleges. The investigation would be rigorous and he wanted to know why he first heard of the alleged incident through the press.

Two deputies have tabled parliamentary questions asking for a full explanation. One of them, the Free Democratic Party's security spokesman, Herr Jürgen Möllemann, emphasized that the episode was not typical of the spirit in the West German army.

The president of the Munich Jewish community, Dr. Hans Lamm, expressed "horror and dread" at the report. Even though the officers were drunk, they were clearly expressing their true sentiments, he said.

## OVERSEAS

# Rhodesia Catholic body welcomes Mr Smith's suggestion of inquiry into atrocity allegations

From Frederick Cleary  
Salisbury, Sept. 29

The Roman Catholic Justice and Peace Commission said today it was "extremely happy" to learn that Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, would welcome an independent inquiry into its allegations of atrocities committed by some members of the Rhodesian security forces.

In a BBC programme on Monday Mr Smith said such allegations were a figment of the commission's imagination. A commission spokesman said today that his organization had asked repeatedly for five years for an inquiry. It would be glad to cooperate with any independent and impartial commission of inquiry.

The Government is now waiting for the appointment of the United Nations representative to be confirmed and for the British Government or the United Nations to reply to the invitation.

Chief Jeremy Chirau, leader of the Zimbabwe African People's Organization, has complained about Mr Joshua Nkomo, the African nationalist leader, being allowed to address the Security Council on the United Nations appointment, saying that his group should be afforded similar facilities.

Political observers see the invitation to Lord Carver and his United Nations colleagues as a shrewd move by Mr Smith, who dislikes long-distance confrontation and relishes meeting opponents head on. He jumped at the chance to meet Dr Henry Kissinger, the former US secretary of state, in Pretoria, invited Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, and his

predecessors to Salisbury, and welcomed Mr Andrew Young, the United States representative, to Salisbury at the beginning of the month.

Mr Smith feels that by meeting people face to face he can put them in the "true picture" about Rhodesia and not rely on second hand reports. A visit here by the two men would enable Mr Smith to give them a first hand insight into Rhodesia's complexities and meet a cross-section of all races of people whose destinies they might well help to decide in the near future. At the same time Mr Smith would be able to weigh them up and his assessment of representatives of the British Government and the United Nations, both of which he distrusts, is bound to influence his final decision on whether or not to accept the Anglo-American proposals.

New York, Sept. 29.—The Security Council deferred a decision on the proposed appointment of a United Nations representative for Rhodesia after Mr Nkomo had raised unexpected conditions last night.

Mr Nkomo, co-chairman of the Rhodesian Patriotic Front, said the General Assembly should be asked to accept the Secretary-General's recommendation that the representative in close consultation with the Security Council and the parties to the Rhodesian conflict. His duties, powers and functions should be determined by the same procedures.

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: Bishop Muzorewa, the Rhodesian nationalist leader, arrived in London yesterday for a five-day private visit. He said that recent developments in Rhodesia had "opened doors for new discussions"

## Hijackers release five hostages

Continued from page 1

released illegally—against the whole concept of justice in Japan.

The Government was also thrown into confusion tonight by the sudden release of the Japanese prisoner, Toshio Omura, refused to accompany the other eight detainees on the flight to Dacca.

The DCA, a Japanese Air Lines aircraft, was hijacked on a Paris-Bangkok flight on Sept. 26. The hijackers, who were eventually set free for the Middle East, but officials were not sure if they were in Libya, Syria or South Yemen would accept the terrorists.

The group of prisoners named by the terrorists to be flown to Dacca, comprises seven well-known terrorists and two common criminals charged with bank robbery and murder.

The group of prisoners named by the terrorists to be flown to Dacca, comprises seven well-known terrorists and two common criminals charged with bank robbery and murder.

The decision to free the prisoners and pay the ransom was transmitted to the hijackers on a "hotline" to the control tower in Dacca this morning. However, the Government pointed out that it would be physically impossible to transport the nine prisoners and the huge amount of money to Bangladesh before the deadline expired.

It was believed that government officials were still attempting to collect the \$6m—to be paid in \$100 notes—from Tokyo last night. The Japanese police said this is the largest amount ever extorted by criminal means in Japan's history.

The authorities also required time to assemble the nine prisoners today, after a pre-dawn meeting of the Cabinet, the Government had decided to pay the ransom, but had balked at demands for the release of many of Japan's most dangerous and violent criminals.

But the hijackers issued more threats from the aircraft during a conversation with Japanese diplomats in the control tower at Dacca airport. They said they would murder all the

passengers and crew and "launch a global programme of terrorism". The Government believes that the terrorists are armed with grenades, explosives and a 38 pistol. The Japanese security police also suspect that the group is comprised of hardened guerrillas who have participated in various acts of international terrorism.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry thought it certain that the hijacked aircraft would eventually set course for the Middle East, but officials were not sure if they were in Libya, Syria or South Yemen would accept the terrorists.

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## Dr Owen warns Russia on détente

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Warning that the Soviet Union must give up its "class-biased efforts" in the world at large, as a necessary part of détente, was given by Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, last night. It was contained in his address to the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations.

"There can be no lasting and stable peace in the world if attempts to find peaceful solutions in different continents are sabotaged either by other nations acting on behalf of the Soviet Union, or by ideological struggle, or by encouraging solutions by force based on massive exports of modern or obsolescent weapons," he stated.

Dr Owen's remarks, coming at a time when the Soviet Union is trying to exploit the détente, will certainly be read with interest in Moscow and not to undercut the Anglo-American attempt to bring peace to Rhodesia. Discussion of the British proposal for a United Nations representative, launched by Dr Owen at the Security Council, was continuing in New York last night with the Soviet support still in doubt.

Dr Owen, who had flown to Chicago to deliver a speech on détente and human rights, said that the basic premise he held was that détente was indivisible and did not stop in Europe, Africa or Asia. It was right to resist destabilizing acts wherever they occurred.

"It is wholly unacceptable to us that any power should foster a policy of exploitation or to use that power to create or to exploit situations in order to extract advantage," Dr Owen said.

"Irresponsible behaviour in areas beyond the boundaries of Europe and North America will have a direct effect on the way in which public opinion within Europe and North America evaluates the détente process."

WITH THE Belgrade review conference opening next week, Dr Owen's further comments that in the debate over human rights a balance must be struck will also be noted in Moscow.

We must try to bring the Soviet Union and its partners to realize that our concern for human rights is not a diversionary tactic, nor a provocative campaign, nor an attempt to sabotage détente. On the contrary, it is an integral part of our foreign policy throughout the world.

But it was no use setting for rapid change. The golden rule must be that neither side should pursue policies which threaten the structure of détente itself. In practice this meant distinguishing between principles and the means employed to put them into effect.

## Judge's inquiry into Gandhi 'excesses'

From Our Correspondent  
Delhi, Sept. 29

The inquiry by Mr Justice Shah, a former Chief Justice of India, today began into excesses and misuse of authority during the emergency declared when Mrs Indira Gandhi was Prime Minister.

The first two cases taken up related to the failure to confirm Mr Justice Lalit, additional judge of the Bombay High Court, and the detention of Mr Justice Aggarwal, of the Delhi High Court, to the session court.

Mr H. R. Gokhale, the Law Minister in Mrs Gandhi's Cabinet, and the former Prime Minister for taking action

## Syria blames Israelis for peace delays

New York, Sept. 29.—Syria

accused Israel today of trying deliberately to undermine United States efforts to reconvene Middle East peace talks. It asked the United Nations to reconsider the resolution that granted Israel membership.

Mr Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister, echoing Mr Fakhri, his Egyptian counterpart, told the General Assembly that the Israelis were pushing the Middle East towards an explosion that would "imperil the whole world."

Mr Khaddam, who talked to President Carter in Washington yesterday, said that in seeking to "save the West Bank and the Gaza Strip" Israel "aims to undermine the efforts exerted by the United States Secretary of State (Mr Cyrus Vance) to have the Geneva peace conference reconvened."

New York for more of his private "proximity talks" with various foreign ministers and other delegates on the fringes of the General Assembly.

Mr Fakhri saw Mr Vance and said afterwards he was "optimistic" that the Geneva conference could reconvene before the end of the year.

In a move clearly designed to sway Israel, the Carter Administration is openly discussing with Arab leaders a direct role for the Palestine Liberation Organization in the talks.

Mr Fakhri said that the Geneva conference could reconvene before the end of the year.

Answering a backbench MP's question on what had happened to the memorandum of understanding signed at a peace meeting between Kenya and Uganda in August last year, he said arrangements were in hand for a new meeting of experts to look into the situation of both countries.

When the MP asked for a declaration of war, the assistant minister said this was not possible, although Kenya would not hesitate to retaliate in case of aggression. He told another member that reports of Kenyans being shot in Uganda since the signing of the agreement would be taken up at the forthcoming meeting.

Mr Gokhale said there was a note from the secretary of the Department of Justice on file to the effect that the Prime Minister's secretary had told him on the telephone that it is not intended to confirm Mr Justice Lalit. (Mr Justice Lalit had delivered judgments which were not to the liking of Mrs Gandhi's Government.)

Mr Gokhale said he had written a long note to Mrs Gandhi about the confirmation of Mr Justice Aggarwal in which he

## Siamese twins are parted

Manhasset, New York, Sept. 29.—Siamese twins Linda and Brenda McCall have been successfully separated by a team of 15 surgeons. They have been apart for two days, but already they miss each other.

Dr Rita Harper said today that the girls sleep close together in the hospital nursery—facing each other in the position they were when joined.

She said they cry and are irritable when placed far apart, but the noise and fussing stops when the girls are back together, facing each other.

The girls, almost seven months old and joined since birth at the breastbone and outer margins of the rib cage, were separated in a four-and-a-half-hour operation on Tuesday at North Shore University Hospital.

The doctors said they believe the girls were the first black Siamese twins successfully separated.

The twins weighed 11lb each at birth. Now they are about 9lb each. —UPI.

## Congress backing for neutron bomb

Washington, Sept. 29.—The House of Representatives voted today to proceed with research on developing a neutron weapon which kills people but leaves buildings intact.

The vote of 297-109 was to defeat an amendment that would have written the ban into a Bill authorizing energy research and development programmes for the 1978 fiscal year that starts on October 1.

President Carter urged approval of the research so that authority would be available if he decided before further study to proceed with development of the weapon.

The neutron weapon could be used as a warhead on an artillery shell or incorporated into a bomb, but its purpose is to be a defensive weapon in a relatively close combat when troops in tanks or bunkers or other shelters could be wiped out by radiation rather than concussion.

Mr Theodore Weiss, a Democrat from New York, an author of the amendment, described it as "inhuman" and a possible trigger for all-out nuclear war. He said it was even on a limited scale.

Mr Charles Wilson, a Democrat from California, manager of the Bill, called for the defeat of Mr Weiss's amendment to meet President Carter's request. He said it was only in the research stage and required further study. Congress still would have to approve actual production and deployment of the weapon if it was pursued. —UPI.

## US warning on nuclear power waste

Washington, Sept. 29.—President Carter was advised yesterday that the United States should stop building nuclear power plants unless it can prove that radioactive waste can be disposed of safely.

The recommendation, made by the Council on Environmental Quality, urged the President to set a deadline for demonstrating that public health would not be endangered.

The council also called for a study of nuclear waste to change the base of the economy from nuclear and fossil fuels to solar energy.

The recommendations were revealed by Mr Gus Speth, council member, in a speech to be made at a conference on nuclear waste in Los Angeles and the American Bar Association.

Mr Speth, an environmental activist, said the nuclear industry was in trouble. Power plant orders had come to near-standstill in the past year, partly because of serious problems, he said.

He said one of the most serious problems was what to do with radioactive waste from reactors and fuel processing plants, which must be isolated for as long as a half million years. —AP.

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## Dr Coggan deplores supply of arms to African states

Moscow, Sept. 29.—The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan, in remarks apparently directed at the Soviet Union, today deplored the delivery of arms to African nations. He was replying in Kiev to questions from a Russian television.

Asked for his opinion of international cooperation aimed at strengthening détente, Dr Coggan welcomed efforts directed at securing peace, but he added: "I must say I deplore the sending of arms, for example to the peoples of Africa, which can only increase the danger of a terrible outbreak of hostilities."

He said it was "an appalling waste of God's good gifts" for the world's resources to be used for "destructive purposes, particularly in the Third World."

The Soviet Union supplies a number of African countries and nationalist movements with weapons, including Somalia and Ethiopia, now fighting a war over the Ogaden desert.

The archbishop, who has been holding talks with Soviet church leaders in Moscow and Kiev, told his interviewers that he believed Soviet religious groups should have complete freedom to worship, write and speak as the conscience dictated.

He had been struck by the high number of believers in the Soviet Union, but felt there was a need for more priests and more buildings, particularly since many churches were now used as museums.

"I have been impressed, as I have visited two synagogues, at the shortage of rabbis, and I think that our Jewish friends are feeling the lack of rabbis very seriously," he said.

As well as meeting leaders of the officially sanctioned Orthodox and Baptist churches in Kiev, Dr Coggan visited a church of the Reformed Baptist denomination yesterday.

He discussed the case of one of the church's leaders, Georgy Vins, now serving a five-year sentence in a labour camp on charges of inciting illegal acts.

Dr Coggan was flying on to the Armenian capital, Yerevan, later today. —Reuters.

## Formula agreed for sharing water of Ganges

Delhi, Sept. 29.—India and Bangladesh today reached agreement on sharing the Ganges river waters, a Foreign Ministry spokesman announced.

The agreement was to be signed in a ceremony in Delhi. The agreement was to be signed in a ceremony in Delhi. The agreement was to be signed in a ceremony in Delhi.

No details were available. The agreement concerned sharing of water at Farakka Barrage, near Calcutta. Several rounds of talks had been held over the past few years on India's diversion of water into the Hooghly river.

Mr Singh, the Foreign Minister, said the agreement was a landmark in the history of India-Bangladesh relations. It was a landmark in the history of India-Bangladesh relations. It was a landmark in the history of India-Bangladesh relations.



هكذا من الاله

# CONVERSEAS

## Congress backs Turkey tells West it is ready to move towards a solution of the Cyprus problem

From Our Correspondent in Ankara, Sept. 29

The Turkish Government has announced that it is in a position to negotiate a Cyprus settlement and enforce it.

The official Turkish view is that Greece and Turkey should take an active part when the intercommunal negotiations on Cyprus are resumed. It is therefore proposed that the Brussels agreement which had been worked out by the Turkish and Greek foreign ministers in December, 1975, should be revived.

The agreement provided for the creation of two subcommittees to operate in parallel line to the talks. One would deal with the constitutional issue and the other with the territorial question. Greece and Turkey would be represented on the subcommittees by observers. The solution in view would not be far from what has been discussed before.

The latest moves for a Cyprus settlement coincided with the serious economic crisis in Turkey, leading many Turks to conclude that the United States was taking advantage of this to press concessions from them.

There is no reason to believe that the United States is not simply eager to help Turkey at this difficult moment, and the grant of \$1,000m (£600m) besides alleviating Turkey's heavy rearmament bill would increase its creditworthiness at a time of dire foreign exchange shortage.

These developments are the culmination of combined efforts by Britain and the United States. They began in Ankara when Mr Frank Judd, the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, came earlier this month to air some new ideas.

It was later agreed that since the United States had the mediation mechanism for Cyprus, this effort should be channelled through the Americanis, especially in view of the Turkish Foreign Minister's scheduled visit to New York this month for the United Nations General Assembly.

A moot point which Mr Vance intends to explore at a meeting with Mr Demetrios Bistinos, the Greek Foreign Minister, is the Greek attitude towards these developments. The Greek Government had resisted attempts to bring Greece directly into the Cyprus negotiating process on the ground that it was up to the Greek Cypriots to determine their political destiny.

Although Archbishop Makarios's death may have affected this attitude, the prospect of a general election in Greece in November is not likely to lower this resistance, particularly as there is little chance of a solution being reached before the Greek Cypriots elect a new President in February.

The present moves, therefore, if successful, may have to be limited to a Turkish Government commitment on Cyprus combined with the ratification of the Defence Cooperation Agreement, both in readiness for more substantial negotiations early next year.

## US Army academy comes under fire for failing to give cadets a proper education

### A black mark for West Point

From Bernard Weisraub Washington, Sept. 29

An Army report has sharply criticized West Point's academic and training programmes, saying that the 175-year-old military academy is suffering from a slackening of the pursuit of excellence.

In a blunt assessment, the report by three generals says that West Point is plagued by poor morale, a lack of supervision and planning, intellectual inbreeding, resistance to change, negative attitudes towards learning among cadets, and even a pervasive lack of humour. There is also a lack of coherent institutional purpose of the academy, the 176-page study says.

Cadets arrive at the academy wishing for and expecting to find a good education, but certain characteristics of the environment undercut the academic programme.

"Although cadets continue to view the academic programme as important to their success at West Point and as Army officers, the system does not seem to support that view. It does not require uniformly high performance, and it allows some relatively unqualified cadets to pass courses and graduate."

Many cadets resolve this obvious inconsistency by adopting the attitude that, although education per se has importance, studies at West Point are often irrelevant and merit only a superficial approach.

In issuing the report, the study group has submitted 152 recommendations in General Bernard Rogers, the Army Chief of Staff. The proposals urge the Army to give cadets more time for serious academic work and less time to the many military, athletic and extracurricular activities.

The study, set up last year after the worst cheating scandal in West Point's history, is expected to serve as the basis for big changes at the academy, which is now headed by General Andrew Goodpaster, former NATO commander and adviser to four United States Presidents.

The report says that a problem which may have contributed to the scandal was excessive demand on cadets, including time-wasting chores, resulting in scattered academic attention and limited opportunity for study in depth.

"We do not believe that attitudes towards academic pursuits are satisfactory among cadets in the lowest 60 to 70 per cent of each class," the report adds.

The authors were Major-General William Dickinson, of the Army's research, development and acquisition branch in the Pentagon; Major-General Jack MacKinnon, Commander of the John F. Kennedy Centre for Military Assistance, Fort Bragg; and Brigadier-General Jack Merritt, a senior officer at 3rd Corps Headquarters in Fort Hood, Texas.—New York Times News Service.

## Pakistan expected to postpone election

From Our Correspondent Islamabad, Sept. 29

General Zia, Pakistan's military ruler, indicated today that the general election arranged for October 18 would be postponed. He told reporters at a public function that his decision about postponement should be known finally by October 10.

After a meeting of the Military Council this evening, it was announced that the 23-year-old daughter of Mr Bhutto, the former Prime Minister, would be put under house arrest until October 3 for making what the authorities described as provocative speeches.

The regime also warned Mrs Bhutto, who is acting as president of the Pakistan People's Party during the detention of her husband under martial law, to desist from making provocative statements and speeches.

Among significant recent public speeches made by Mrs Bhutto was one in which she gave a warning against postponement of elections on any pretext, asserting that the people were behind her husband. She had said if elections were blocked it would lead to revolution.

Miss Benazir Bhutto, a former president of the Oxford Union, has also been campaigning for her father. In one of her most recent speeches she said that if he was sent to the gallows, the waters of all five rivers of Pakistan would run red.

Several leaders of the Pakistan National Alliance, however, have been demanding that the October election be replaced by the controversial March one in which Mr Bhutto's party won all but 37 of the 200 National Assembly seats, should be postponed until the civil courts are able to deliver judgments in the many criminal charges against Mr Bhutto, that include murder and misappropriation of government funds.

General Zia told reporters he intended to let the civil courts try Mr Bhutto. One or two of Mr Bhutto's colleagues, however, would be tried by military courts to establish his claim that these courts were as just and impartial in their proceedings as any other courts.

He was inclined, he said, to accept the view that the credibility of public leaders should be established fully before a general election was held. That would be fair to Mr Bhutto as well, he added. The civil courts might not be able to decide the cases in the next 19 days.

Political observers have noted a clear shift in public opinion in favour of Mr Bhutto during the past few weeks. Many are more inclined to regard him as a man under persecution, not a criminal on trial. He was released by the High Court on bail in a murder case against him on September 13, but was detained under martial law order four days later.

It is being said that Mr Bhutto's opponents have been unnerved by enthusiastic public response to election meetings addressed by his wife and daughter in the past 10 days, putting their political calculations about the next election into serious doubt.

## Guerrillas 'control a quarter of Ethiopia'

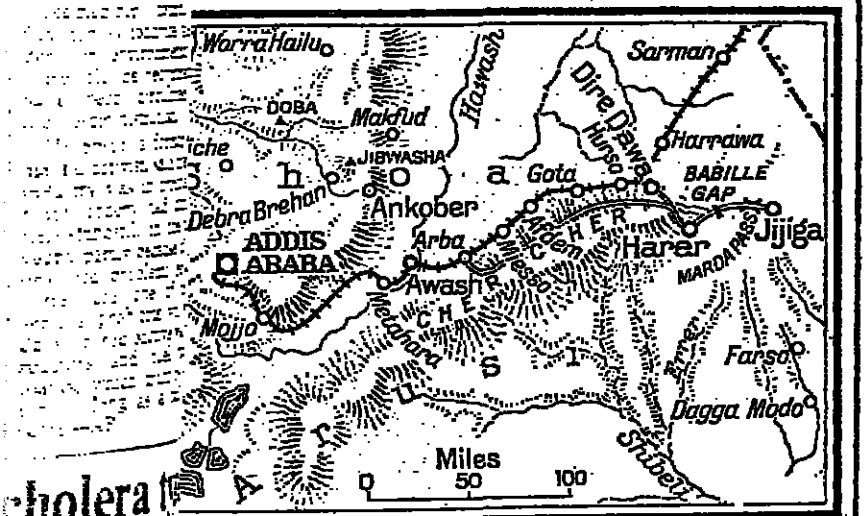
From Our Correspondent Mogadishu, Sept. 29—The eastern Somalia Liberation Front (WSLF) today claimed to control a quarter of Ethiopia after winning the crucial battle of the Gara Murda pass.

After the capture of the tank of Jijiga, the Front said, SLF forces were now about 100 miles to the west advancing their next target, the old city of Harar. It said Ethiopians had been killed in battle.

Military observers believe the battle was the last defensive position before Harar, so WSLF report of fighting at the city could mean the Ethiopians are trying to dig in there, surrounded by steep craggy mountains, is on a defensive terrain, but it has fallen twice in the past 45 years; once to the Italians and once to the British who both sought to enter the Ethiopian capital.

Mogadishu cargo ships are being unloaded night and day by crews.

Although Somali officials are publicly claiming the Front Union for slowing down arms deliveries to Somalia and rushing heavy weapons to Ethiopia since the war began in late July, diplomats here think the Russians are keeping to their military agreements of a little behind schedule.—Reuter.



## Brezhnev plea to Somalia to end Ogaden fighting

Moscow, Sept. 29—President Brezhnev has accused the West of using the dirtiest methods to conflict among the countries of Africa. At the same time he issued an implicit plea to Somalia to end the fighting with Ethiopia.

Brezhnev was speaking at a reception yesterday for President Neto of Angola, who was here today to have made a surprise visit to Moscow. He said Dr Neto arrived on Tuesday and left today. He said his last visit to Russia was under a year ago.

There was no explanation for the secrecy surrounding the Angolan leader's visit, but observers thought it could be connected with security problems in Luanda.

In his speech President Brezhnev said imperialist forces were concentrating on splitting the unity of the African countries.

## Cuba ready to respond to any US gesture

Havana, Sept. 29—President Castro said last night Cuba would respond to any positive gesture by the United States but the process of détente would still be a lengthy one.

He ruled out the possibility of Cuba paying compensation to American firms nationalized some 17 years ago unless Cuba was compensated for "aggression" against it by the United States.

President Castro told a rally of about a million people in Revolution Square that relations with the United States had improved this year but enormous problems remained. These included the American trade embargo on Cuba and the continued occupation of Guantánamo naval base on the island.—Reuter.

Chicago, Sept. 29—A five-day-old female giraffe at Brookfield Zoo, near here, has been named Victoria in honour of the giraffe Victor, who died at Maxwell Zoo, Winchester, last week.—Reuter.

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### Keats

Two minutes from the poet's last house, Keats is one of those gastronomic oases which attract the connoisseur—a hint at the high standard of French cuisine here. In the informal literary atmosphere, you can choose from a menu which demands some firm decisions, so enticing are the dishes. The wine list includes 'the finest collection of Burgundies assembled under one roof'. Keats is at 3 Downshire Hill, NW3. Reservations: 01-435 3544.

### A l'Ecu de France

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### L'Artiste Affamé

It is not only 'hungry artists' who will appreciate this romantic 19th century restaurant which serves such tasty fare. To the sound of a guitar, you can satisfy your appetite with such delights as haddock cooked in brandy and cream, or fillet of steak with a three-mustard sauce. The 400 year old wine press in the centre is appropriate to the excellent list. L'Artiste Affamé is at 243 Old Brompton Rd., SW7. Reservations: 01-373 1659.

### Verbanella

Enter the charming pink-and-beige lounge bar, feel the warm, friendly atmosphere, and you know you're in for a great time at Verbanella. In the equally attractive restaurant, seated at a natural wood table, you can feast on

such delicacies as fillet of sole Verbanella and scaloppino Borromeo and drink a first class Italian wine. You are so well looked after, it's hardly surprising that the local personalities eat at Verbanella, 30 Beauchamp Place, SW3. Reservations: 01-584 1107.

### Belmonte

Just a little out of Town, near London Airport, the Belmonte Restaurant offers mouth-watering Italian and French food. In this relaxing, chalet-style restaurant, you can not only dine on the regular specialities, such as scampi Marco Polo but, when available, on grouse and other seasonal delights. Your comfort and enjoyment are assured here, with a wine list to complement the delicious food. Belmonte is at 32 Sunbury Cross Centre, Sunbury, Middlesex. Reservations: Sunbury 89223.



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## Fly south for the winter

A steel band played melodiously in the background, a bright orange sun settled itself on the horizon behind a pattern of palm trees, and a waiter hovered obsequiously nearby.

For the winter sun, another Pioneer's Punch. The swimming-pool looked warm and inviting, and the beach beyond it even more inviting—there is no evening chill in these parts.

The Caribbean? No, the pinkish sand and the name that the steel band were playing, provide the clues.

For this was Bermuda, Britain's island in the sun, out in the Atlantic halfway between the United States and the Caribbean—and the island which has adopted the famous calypso tune of "Yellow Bird" as one of its national anthems.

Bermuda's other hit tune at the moment is modestly entitled *Bermuda Is Another World*. But one can forgive the island its penchant for self-promotion. Bermuda is indeed another world: a world which combines the American tourism know-how with the delights of Caribbean culture and a healthy dose of Victorian-style English manners.

"Bermuda", one of the island's tourism officials told me with some accuracy, "has all the advantages of the Caribbean and none of its disadvantages".

He was almost right. Certainly there is no undercurrent of violence in Bermuda. But the Caribbean proper lies a few hundred miles to the south and west, and Bermuda, on a similar latitude to the Canary Islands, can promise the same sort of sun-soaked winters that one will find in, say, Barbados or Tobago.

But for the "shoulder" months of late autumn and early spring, Bermuda would be hard to beat.

It is in fact a 22-mile-long string of islands, linked together by causeways and huge natural bays, and protected by a vast reef.

Because the islands are narrow it is impossible to get much more than half a mile from the sea, and the beaches—particularly along the south

coast—are superb. But the sea does not dominate the landscape as it so often does on an island.

Indeed, Bermuda, with its trim lawns and picturesque drives like "The Oldender Route" and "The Hibiscus Route", somehow gives one the impression of being on a big, floating garden.

As a result, Bermuda would be my first choice for a winter sunshine holiday this year although some care should be exercised over the choice of dates. Hotels which can be recommended include Elbow Beach, Castle Harbour, Horizons, Lantana, and the magnificent Cambridge Beaches.

British Airways' Speedbird Holidays have a variety of inclusive holidays to Bermuda, starting at £279 for a week. Two weeks at Elbow Beach starts at £514.

The French Caribbean actually seems to have managed to become less attractive over the past four years; but individual hotels, such as the Bakous on Martinique (you can fly there by Air France), set a very high standard.

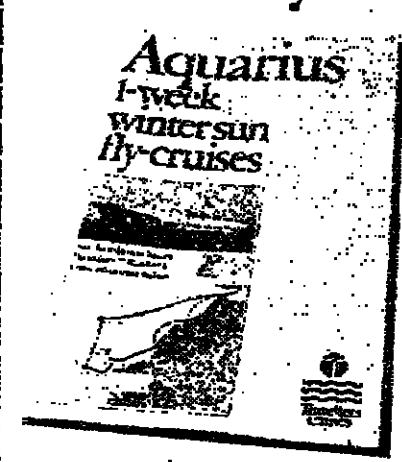
Like Bermuda, the Canaries cannot guarantee non-stop winter sunshine. But it is odd on that you will find it there, and even if you are unlucky for a day or two there is lots to see and do in an island like Tenerife. A number of British tour operators offer inclusive winter holidays to Tenerife, and prices are competitive (one week from £91; Intasun).

Because prices seem to vary even more than usual this winter, it is worth studying the brochures. But be warned: the tour operators have lots of new ideas to tempt you. Among the places or activities which have appealed to me are sailing or golf on the Costa del Sol (the courses there have a reciprocal arrangement which saves money on green fees, and the attractive cities of Granada, Seville and Córdoba are within easy reach); the French Riviera (£140 for three nights in the superb Carlton Hotel, Cannes, with Cox and Kings, but probably worth every penny of it); and Israel's Red Sea, with Elit (one week from £199; Red Sea Holidays).

For the more usual fly-and-ski holidays, prices generally start as low as £64 for a week (Lermos, Austria; Blue Sky Holidays). And if you are hesitant about going alone, the Ski Club of Great Britain (118 Euston Square, London, SW1) organises an accompanied parties of beginners.

Robin Mead

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SPORT

Racing

# Puza's fluency could make his task less stiff at Haydock

By Michael Seely  
Jeremy Hindley's Realm colt, Puza, is my selection to win the Altrincham Stakes at Haydock Park this afternoon. This five-furlong dash for two-year-olds is by far and away the most interesting event on a quiet programme at the Lancashire track. Judged on the evidence of the form book, Puza faces a stiff task in being asked to concede weight to such as Knight, Miss Anabella and Al Forman, but the fluency of his recent victory at Newbury may tip the scales in his favour.

Puza has run only four times this season. At Nottingham at the end of August he started a short-price favourite to capture a maiden event, but could finish only third to Godhood. Despite this failure, Puza was again first choice in the market at Newbury. This time he made no mistake. Racing clear of his field below two miles, he was pushed along with hands by Joe Mercer to come home six lengths clear of Lus Boy.

Knight and Miss Anabella have been running consistently well in useful company. After scoring at Poulton in July, Walter Whitworth's Knight, who like Puza is sired by Realm, finished runner-up on his next three outings, acquiring himself with particular credit when second to Frimley Park in a valuable nursery at the York Ebor meeting.

There is also a threat of gold running through Miss Anabella's form. A winner of the Redcar July, the filly was then narrowly defeated by Danger Signal in a nursery at Ripon. But her latest effort when she came home second in a similar event at Newbury was even more encouraging, as the winner nearly brought off the chase from her season when beaten only a head by Manor Farm Boy in the valuable Harry Rosebery Challenge Trophy at Ayr last month.

But in her Newbury success Puza covered the Berkshire five-furlong in far quicker time than had Miss Anabella half an hour

earlier. Although Al Forman also holds a sound chance on the balance of his running, the improvement Puza is preferred. His jockey, Mercer, could complete a double by riding Drummoose to his third victory in succession in the Preston Handicap. Henry Cecil's three-year-old probably has most to fear from Olympic Visualise.

My idea of the best bet at Haydock Park is William Elsey's Broomeley in the Outland Handicap. A half-brother by the sire of the moment, Elsey's colt, Puza, is now being guided and shown a dramatic improvement in his previous form when beaten just over five lengths by Tanaka in a conditions race at the Western 1968 Ebor Handicap winner, Alignment, Broomeley has a reputation of effort should be good enough to see him win this £2,000, even carrying only 11st 7lb.

Oliver, the easy conqueror of last year's easy conqueror of the Ascot last year, is a winner without a penalty.

Prominent in an apprentices race at Ascot last year, is a winner without a penalty.

A likely double for Berkshire at the Lancashire track could be Paul Cole's French Impulse. A two-year-old, French Impulse finished under four lengths behind Danseuse Etouille at Longchamp in April and should challenge Richard fourth to Nobody's Fool at Chesham earlier this month. Remould only three-quarters of a length behind Danseuse Etouille in a maiden race at Warwick in August, should find Fanny Keyser and Kerleane to be his principal opponents.

STATE OF GOING (official): Haydock Park, Good to firm. Wincanton, Good to firm. Cheltenham, Good to firm. Towcester, Firm. Kauto, Firm.

## Going and draw unlikely to stop improved Kamacia

From Desmond Stoneham  
French Racing Correspondent  
Paris, Sept 29

After considering all the past day's gallops and other information, I consider that Kamacia is the best horse in the world at the moment. The second position could well be filled by Crystal Palace, but it would be a long way from the colt's habitual partner, Gerard Dubouche, had been retained for the Longchamp classic. My order of preference for the other runners mentioned is Fabuleux, Jane, Orange Bay, Arctic Tern, and Crow.

Kamacia has truly found her form this month and neither the draw, as yet unknown, or the going will affect the chance of this filly, although some rain would be a severe handicap.

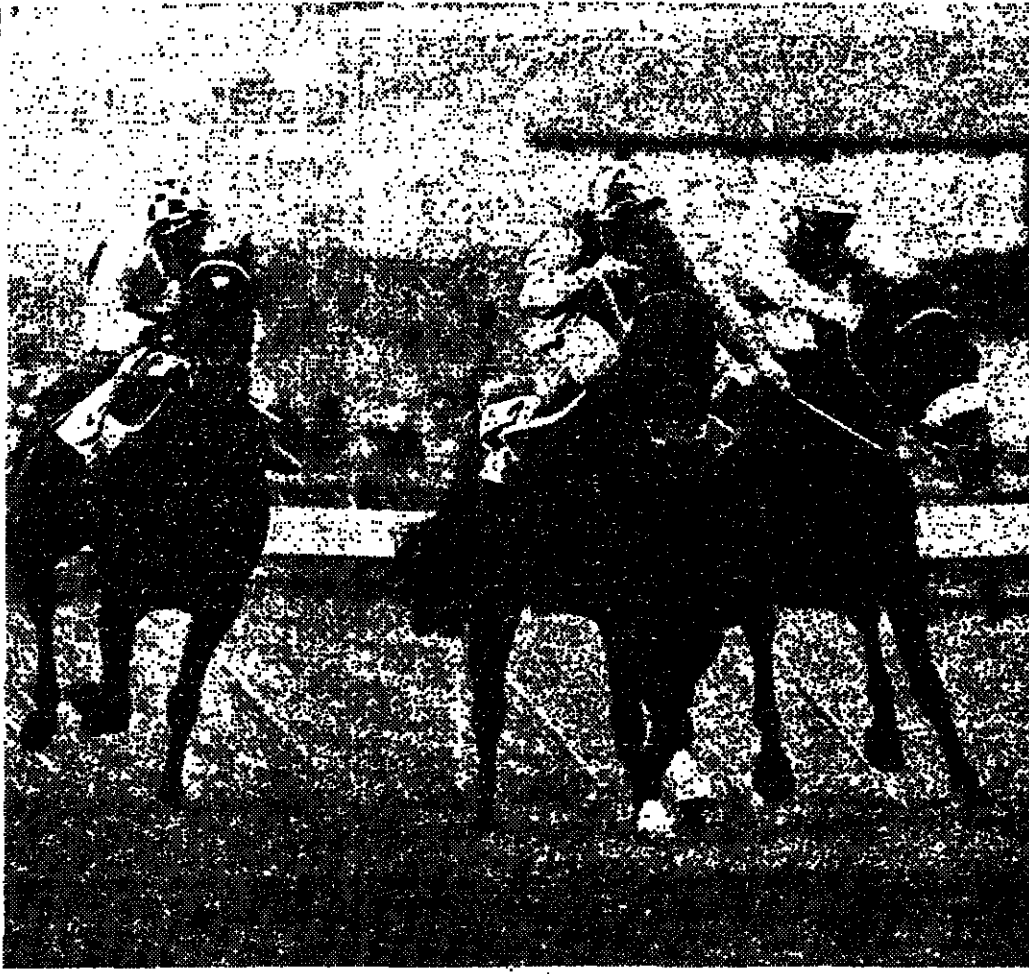
Her trainer, Jean Laumain, confirms that Kamacia has improved even more since winning the Prix Yvermelle in the first of the filly's last two races. In the Prix Vermeille, Kamacia took the lead at the furlong post and ran over two months in the filly's last two races. In the Prix Vermeille, Kamacia took the lead at the furlong post and ran over two months in the filly's last two races.

At present it looks as if Orange Bay will be the good or firm ground that he needs to produce his best form. No rain has fallen since last Saturday and the going is likely to be good or firm ground that he needs to produce his best form. No rain has fallen since last Saturday and the going is likely to be good or firm ground that he needs to produce his best form.

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## Haydock Park programme

2.15 BOLTON MAIDEN STAKES (2-y-o maiden fillies: £994: 5f)	1. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall
2.45 BRYN HANDICAP (£1,384: 6f)	1. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall
3.15 PRESTON HANDICAP (3-y-o: £1,539: 11m 131yd)	1. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall
3.45 ALTRINCHAM STAKES (2-y-o: £1,162: 5f)	1. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall
4.15 OUTLAND HANDICAP (£1,825: 11m)	1. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall
4.45 KNUFTON STAKES (3-y-o maiden fillies: £943: 11m 131yd)	1. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall



Formidable (centre) wins the Middle Park Stakes at Newmarket yesterday.

## Formidable lives up to his name

By Michael Phillips  
Racing Correspondent

Peter Walwyn's American-bred colt, Formidable, lives up to his name at Newmarket yesterday when he won the Middle Park Stakes in record time on ground that he seemed to dislike. In doing so he beat the third horse, Labeaux, by the same distance that Sexton Blake had done at Doncaster earlier in the month. This month will be the first time that the winner of this year's Champagne Stakes and Middle Park Stakes are much of a distance apart. It means we must wait for the Doncaster Stakes which will be run at Newmarket in a fortnight to see which horse is likely to head this year's Free Handicap and become the winter favourite for next year's 2,000 Guineas.

The field for the Newmarket Stakes is likely to include Sexton Blake, Persian Bold, the colt who was runner-up to Formidable yesterday, and Vincent O'Brien's latest high hope, the unbeaten Northern Dancer colt, Try Me, who is reputed to be better than his stable companion Solinus. Their impending clash is a most intriguing prospect. Sexton Blake, who was flying about in the wind after yesterday's race, in going 8-1, was beaten by 10-1. Yesterday Formidable seemed to be feeling the firm ground again

## High Top filly for 15,500gns

Ingle Thoday, the breeder, runner-up at the Newmarket October Yearling Sales yesterday when securing a full-sister to the Oaks fourth, Triple First, for 15,500 guineas. The filly, by 1972 2,000 Guineas winner, High Top, out of the Grey Sovereign mare, Field Mouse, was one of five yearlings offered by Ingle Thoday. The deal represented a handsome profit for Mr Laker, who had given 7,400 guineas for the filly. Mr Thoday, who owns the Glebe House Stud at Chelvey just outside Newmarket, has bred a succession of useful performers, notably Miracle, Buss, and more recently, leading Cesarewitch winner, Nearly A Hand.

## Wincanton NH

2.0 OKEFORD STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £637: 2m)	1. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall
2.30 ORCHARD HURDLE (Div 1: 3-y-o: £443: 2m)	1. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall
2.40 NEWLANDS STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £685: 2m 5f)	1. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall
2.50 ORCHARD HURDLE (Div 1: 3-y-o: £443: 2m)	1. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall
3.00 OTTERBORNE STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £650: 3m 1f)	1. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall
3.10 ALTRINCHAM STAKES (2-y-o: £1,162: 5f)	1. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall
3.20 ORCHARD HURDLE (Div 1: 3-y-o: £443: 2m)	1. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall
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4.00 NEWLANDS STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £685: 2m 5f)	1. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall
4.10 ORCHARD HURDLE (Div 1: 3-y-o: £443: 2m)	1. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall
4.20 NEWLANDS STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £685: 2m 5f)	1. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall
4.30 OTTERBORNE STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £650: 3m 1f)	1. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall
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5.20 NEWLANDS STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £685: 2m 5f)	1. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall
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14.20 NEWLANDS STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £685: 2m 5f)	1. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm-O-Bazaar, R. Marshall, 8-11. R. Marshall 12. 000000 Charm



**By Peter Ryde**

1-560 2151.  
W1Y 3AS. Tel: 01-629 5578.



## Can Labour learn to stop worrying and love the EEC?

Rashly optimistic though the idea may seem, next week's Labour Party conference may bring encouragement to those who would like to see Britain cooperating more wholeheartedly in the European Community.

The portents suggest that what Mrs Barbara Castle, a virtual anti-Marketeer, recently called a quiet revolution has taken place, and that the Labour movement as a whole is just about ready to accept the reality of Britain's EEC membership, almost four years after the event. Perhaps the Brighton conference will show that British socialists are even ready to play a full part in efforts to build a better, and more democratic EEC.

Among the hopeful auguries have been the TUC's overwhelming rejection earlier this month of a motion favouring withdrawal, after Mr Jack Jones had described it as unrealistic and undemocratic in the light of the referendum. Then Mr Peter Shore, a prominent anti-Marketeer, said it would be "frivolous" to reopen the question of membership without evidence of a settled and preponderant desire to secede; and Mrs Castle has warned against fighting the next general election on a negative platform, and has urged that the momentum be forward, not back.

Even the somewhat cautiously worded statement of the Labour Party's National Executive Council to the conference, while speaking of the goal of "a wider but much looser grouping of European states", calls for fundamental reform, not withdrawal.

These events have made a strong impression on the leaders of both the pro and anti-EEC gung groups in Britain. Lord Thomson of Monmouth, chairman of the European Movement, former Labour Cabinet minister and one of Britain's first Commissioners in Brussels, thought the TUC vote in particular was immensely important. "Some trade union leaders had described it to him as a 'watershed' in the Labour movement's acceptance of the reality of membership," he said in an interview.

He thought that the way Mr Jones had "very realistically" demolished the case for reopening the issue of membership, while stressing that he had lots of criticisms of the way the EEC worked, provided a good deal of common ground for "pros" and "cons".

Earlier this summer, he recalled, some people on the national executive and in the Tribune Group had sought to reopen the whole issue of continued membership. "What the TUC has done, with the instinctive common sense that the trade union movement often has, is to say this is not a political reality."

"I certainly hope that what will come out of the Labour Party conference is a confirmation of the TUC attitude, and therefore a willingness to tackle in a constructive way the very serious problems of the reform of the Community."

Lord Thomson could not understand why the nation's executive had been "sulking in a corner", as he put it, over the preparations for direct elections to the European Parliament next spring. The party had joined the Confederation of European Socialist Parties, but it had made the worst of this

decision by not cooperating fully in the working parties shaping the common platform. This ill-logical posture had meant that in practice, the Conservatives had been given an "immense head start."

Lord Thomson thought anti-Marketees were wrong to assume that enlargement of the EEC would inevitably lead to a dilution of its institutions. Greece, Portugal and Spain were not seeking to join a loose, EFTA-type Community, but an integrated economic structure. He also found it "extremely striking" that those who had the most direct experience of dictatorship in the postwar period put so high a value on EEC membership.

A very different interpretation of events came, inevitably, from Mr Bryan Gould, Labour MP for Southampton Test, chairman of the umbrella anti-EEC group, the Safeguard Britain Campaign, and a highly intelligent and engaging economist.

For him, the TUC vote was "not significant". The TUC would have defeated a straight call for withdrawal at any stage after the referendum, as would the Labour Party conference. As it was, similar resolutions put forward for Brighton had been withdrawn under the "three-year rule" (designed to stop old issues being thrashed out again after being "settled"). Instead there are four calls for reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, three opposed to direct elections and one urging preparations for them.

As Mr Gould sees the situation, there has been increasing opposition among "ordinary people" to EEC membership, so it would be in a sense a paradox if Labour opinion were moving in the opposite way. But there was a tactical or strategic dilemma, what practical response should this general feeling produce?

Tribune's campaign in June had perhaps collected fewer MPs' signatures than expected, and had demonstrated the difficulty of regarding withdrawal as a practical political issue for the immediate future. However strong dissatisfaction with the EEC was at present, there would not be any withdrawal until there was a parliamentary majority for it, which there clearly would not be for a parliament or two.

"So in the meantime we want to concentrate on aspects of the Community which are damaging to us and in need of reform. In the process of building up public concern over these issues, either we achieve reforms and fundamentally change the nature of the Community; or we build up such dissatisfaction that withdrawal becomes practical politics."

Mr Gould thought it would help if the small group of ardent pro-Marketees could, for example, accept that the Common Agricultural Policy did lead to higher food prices.

"I think the time has passed for recriminations. I would like to see as near as possible an agreed view on what is wrong with the Community, and then let's see what can be done about it."

Widespread constructive words which, if echoed at Brighton, will hearten those much-tried friends of Britain on the Continent.

Roger Berthoud

The US Administration drops the big stick in favour of a more subtle approach

## Mr Carter listens to the march of history in his campaign for human rights



Presidents Carter and Pinochet: promises made in Washington are not always kept



Although his flamboyant personal gestures on behalf of political dissidents appear to have ceased, President Carter has made it abundantly clear that his administration will persist with its crusade to uphold human rights at home and abroad.

In his latest public statement on his aims he says that since he took office some eight months ago he has sought "to weave a due regard for those rights into the fabric" of United States foreign policy. "One of the incidental effects of this necessarily somewhat experimental effort has been a nationwide — indeed, worldwide — debate on the nature of human rights and how best they may be advanced," he writes in an article, specially commissioned for the *Baltimore Sun*.

Conceding this is no easy task, he points out that human rights cannot be the only goal of United States foreign policy, at least not in a world in which peace is literally a matter of survival. "We are circumscribed by the fact that a choice that moves us towards one of our goals may move us further away from another and by the limits of our power."

In this imperfect world, the results of our actions will usually be mixed even when our motives are not. Mr Carter believes. Nevertheless, through public discussion and private persuasion, he feels that some progress has been made, although quick results cannot be expected in a struggle which has been going on for centuries.

This pragmatic assessment of the difficulties inherent in pursuing an effective human rights policy and the long-term nature of the whole enterprise contrasts somewhat with the excessive idealism of some of his earlier actions in support of Soviet dissidents, for example, the recent absence of sym-

bolic interventions like his letter to Dr Andrei Sakharov and his meeting with Mr Vladimir Bukovsky shortly after he took office points to a significant change of tactics.

After successfully stimulating international awareness of human rights abuses, the emphasis is now placed on more discreet and direct pressures for changes during meetings between government leaders or their representatives.

Thus when Mr Carter met Latin American leaders individually during the recent festivities surrounding the signing of the new Panama Canal treaties he refrained from public criticism of any oppressive practices. Keenly aware he needed their support in his campaign to sell the treaties to Congress and the American public, he clearly wanted to avoid any dispute which might mar an otherwise harmonious occasion.

A few months earlier he might have been tempted to use his discussions with a controversial figure like President

Augusto Pinochet of Chile as a useful occasion for some caustic comments before the television cameras or even to boycott him as some human rights groups had demanded. But on that occasion he had other confiding, more important foreign policy goals.

Notwithstanding this generally lower key approach to human rights, however, there have been several recent instances where the administration has felt the need to issue a public protest. The most obvious of these was the statement by Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, that he was "shocked and saddened" at the mysterious death of Mr Steven Biko, the black African leader, in a South African jail.

The rule of thumb in deciding whether to make public the administration's displeasure of a particular violation depends on the gravity of the offence in question and the significance of the individual involved, senior administration officials say. Mr Biko, for

example, was a major political figure whose treatment was clearly the responsibility of the South African government. One official says, "His death wasn't something that occurred out of nowhere. It was within the control of the government and represented a clear danger of accepted standards."

While public castigations of human rights infringements has been the most conspicuous aspect of the administration's human rights policy, other less publicized pressures like the threatened withdrawal of economic and military aid have continued unabated. With the full support of Congress, erring governments are frequently warned of the direct consequences during discussions with United States ambassadors or more senior administration representatives.

After some initial resentment at such interferences by Washington in their internal affairs, some countries, particularly those in Latin America which rely heavily on United

States aid, have taken steps, albeit modest, to comply with American wishes. After a visit to Chile, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, last month, Mr Terence Todman, Assistant Secretary of State, said he had detected a considerable decline in the number of political arrests, disappearances and cases of torture in these countries.

More recently the Nicaraguan Government has lifted the state of siege it imposed some three years ago, apparently after Washington had warned that a net \$2,500,000 dollar military aid agreement might be held up. There has also been a growing willingness among Latin American countries to permit human rights investigations by international bodies.

Nevertheless, it is not at all clear after only a few months how many of these actions are genuine signs of a change of heart or have been taken for purely cosmetic reasons. Human rights campaigners in the United States fear the

worst when leaders like President Pinochet promise to mend their ways when they are in Washington and then indicate when they return home that nothing will change.

Indeed, one of the drawbacks of the prominence of the human rights issue under President Carter is that wayward governments are tempted to claim down areas of human rights in order to attract the attention of the United States. If their crimes are discovered, this appears to be happening in Chile, for instance, after a number of recent bombings in the central Santiago area.

Several foreign correspondents were summoned by the government press office and warned they might be imprisoned or expelled if they published the news outside Chile.

Outside these parts of Latin America, Africa and the Far East, where American economic and military influence is greatest, the campaign for enhanced human rights has been considerably less successful. Indeed in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, it has proved counterproductive in terms of fulfilling other crucial American foreign policy goals: like ending the arms race.

Moscow's harsh criticism of some of Mr Carter's public statements and dramatic actions on behalf of Soviet dissidents was almost certainly one of the determining factors in the new, more subtle approach to human rights.

As might be expected, President Carter still professes optimism in the long run. "History moves slowly and fitfully," he writes in the *Baltimore Sun*. "But as long as we are true to ourselves, history, where human rights are concerned, is on our side."

David Cross

Bernard Levin

## Ask not for whom the Celestial Tootle tolls

An article in *Nature* records the view of three American scientists — let us call them Freeman, Hardy and Willis — that the universe is liable to come to an abrupt end by suffering gravitational collapse, which will mean that the entire works, including the solar system, the galaxies, Mr Roy Hatterley, indeed absolutely everything within the farthest limits of space — will disappear — phut! — into an enormous Black Hole. Just like that.

Now when I read a report of this alarming prediction, my thoughts, like Belshazzar's, were greatly troubled by this writing, and my knees smote one against another. At first I thought vague about going and standing in the middle of Wimbledon Common (though not under a tree, of course), where I might be safe, until I realized that Wimbledon Common was destined to go down the same celestial plughole as everything else, a conclusion which also ruled out my alternative plan, which was to make myself a huge pile of sandwiches and crawl into the cupboard under the stairs.

That left me, as you may imagine, nonplussed. I studied the report more closely, in case I could detect a flaw in the argument or a lack of rigour in the experimental method. The daunting three had employed, but in vain; it seemed that they had looked through a special telescope for four

minutes, during which time they had seen that the quasars, those merry little fellows on the outer perimeter of the universe (and you, they are not as merry as their baby brothers, the pulsars), were receding less rapidly than were wont to, from which it naturally followed inescapably that the entire universe was destined to behave in the manner described. Well, of course.

I cancelled the papers, changed into evening dress and sat down on the sofa with a volume of Ovid in my hand; I was determined to meet the end of civilization in a civilized attitude. Nothing happened. I went to the window and peered out; I could see nothing to suggest that sofa, Ovid and I were about to be engulfed together in oblivion. Indeed, I was even more reassured, though I had missed, even though I had already searched for it, precisely the possibility of a cataclysm so all-embracing that it is not only Wimbledon Common and the cupboard under the stairs that will be useless as refuges, but also the farthest stars and the emptiest echos of interstellar space?

Well, to start with there is the suspiciously round figure presented by Kigour, French and Stanbury. Naturally, in these matters great exactitude is difficult to attain, and I for one do not complain that Crosby, Stills and Nash did not announce that the Big Gulp is

due to take place, when it does, at precisely twenty past four in the afternoon. All the same, a figure consisting of a one followed by eleven noughts does suggest strongly to me a tendency among those in charge to take the more detailed calculations as read, if not indeed to do no more than go on writing noughts as they put to the edge of the page, and then declare that the resulting figure was the correct one. (If so, they could have avoided a lot of unpleasantness by using a wider notebook.)

But, of course, that does not prove complete reassurance. It would be small comfort for a man told that he is going to vanish in a hundred thousand million years time to learn later that his rendezvous with destiny might take a little more than a day, or a week, or a little less; what he wants to hear is that it is very unlikely to happen at all. Peace, friends, cats: I am here to tell you precisely that. The truth is that Knight, Frank and Rutley, with their notion of the universe vanishing, are passing off, are wasting their breath and our time.

If I say that nobody — not even Ind, Coops and Almsop — has the remotest shadow of a vision of how the universe claims such as the one just made by Oswald, Backson and Collier about the way the world ends. In a hundred thousand million years, they insist, something dreadful is going to happen to the entire universe; and this they know because they

going. Every five years, the Astronomer-Royal, acting in his official capacity, blows a trumpet, and the Celestial Tootle and all astronomers either stop believing that it began with a Big Bang, and start believing that it began with a Steady State, or depending on which they believed at the last quinquennial point) vice versa. It is a harmless occupation, and keeps them off the streets (though not out of the pages of *Nature*), and since there is no way of even guessing at the truth, they are never in any danger of being proved wrong.

No such ceremony is connected with the end of the universe, and because in this field there is such a bewilderingly large variety to choose from, and the belief held by any particular scientist is changed so frequently that it has proved impossible to keep late the traffic at all. Which is hardly surprising, if there is no way of discovering what will happen in the remote past, can anybody seriously claim to know what will happen in the remote future?

Just stop and contemplate, if you would, the absurdity of a world which takes seriously claims such as the one just made by Oswald, Backson and Collier about the way the world ends. In a hundred thousand million years, they insist, something dreadful is going to happen to the entire universe; and this they know because they

have discovered, or think they have discovered, that certain celestial bodies are now moving rather less rapidly than they once did — the celestial bodies, in question, I might add, being ones the very nature of which is a total mystery to Professor Colman, Prentice and Varley as much as to me, everybody else. If that is the way things will be, then the drawing-up of comprehensive evacuation plans; all they are doing is upsetting people, without even the excuse that they are upsetting them for their own good. (And a pretty busy excuse that usually is, anyway.)

My advice to you all is to take your fingers out of your ears and cheer up. The only thing that can be said with any certainty at all about the universe is that it yet has surprises in store. Many years ago, Beaschomber discovered a scientific report which declared that "At the rate at which the sea is encroaching on the land in East Angles, Ely Cathedral will be completely surrounded by water in 10,000 years". The paper, printed in the *Times*, and added to the *Illustrated Catalogue* "I have said word to the Bishop". And that goes for Messrs Pp, Squeak and Wilfred, too.

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## The Why, When, Where and How of Hine Cognac

## When Hine?

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## A win for Mrs Thatcher in the Liberal game of Let's Pretend

This absolutely ravishing girl from Lager (The Liberal Action Group for Electoral Reform) could not detect a flaw in the argument or a lack of rigour in the experimental method. The daunting three had employed, but in vain; it seemed that they had looked through a special telescope for four

invite 766 electors of this Sussex town to cast their preferred votes. The result: to the delight of any comedy script writer, was inevitable. Margaret Thatcher was elected on the first count with 194 first preference votes. Ted Heath came second with 129, Jim Callaghan third with 124 and David Steel fourth with 88.

It just so happened that when the single transferable vote system had been worked out, Messrs Heath, Callaghan and Steel joined Mrs Thatcher as the four chosen representatives. Anxious Liberals with over-worked pocket calculators explained to me that it did not necessarily follow that the four who had got the most votes at first choice would necessarily be elected under the PR system.

The NEC actually holds its first meeting today and the weekend offers a diary so full of events that I may have to miss Sunday's soccer match between journalists covering the conference and the Transport House All Star XI.

The problem is, of course,

that Socialists seem to have so much business to get through (or perhaps they are just verbose?) that they cannot see their annual conference through in the space of a single week.

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## May Day distress for Tories

Tory rumblings of discontent over the establishment of a permanent May Day public holiday are reaching a crescendo. I detect the true blue country of Epping Forest.

It is from this leafy part of Essex that a busy campaign against the very idea of an annual holiday to British labour has been launched. The first such holiday will be next year, you may remember hearing through Red Square, not children playing round the maypole. Labour politicians have said May Day is of tremendous significance to their party. We don't want the holiday as a political event."

Mr Arch, a former member of the RAF medical branch, recalled how Sir Archibald always wanted Churchill as a guest of honour. But Lady Churchill, in the gentlest way, asked that the invitation should not be pressed.

"She said she wished to avoid him the distress of coming face to face with the result of what had been his policies," Mr Arch disclosed.

London's stonewall festival is now held in its stride, but

## Too much for Sir Winston

A touching story about Churchill's sensitivity to the horrors of war has emerged at East Grinstead, West Sussex.

It is here that the annual Arch, the group's organising secretary, spoke of the little known correspondence which passed between Lady Spencer Churchill and Sir Archibald McIndoe, the surgeon, before his death in 1960.

Another incentive is the fact that Mr Bole's supplied the music that flowed out of Dirk Borge's unpractised fingers in that Hollywood travesty of the life of Lizzy, Song Without End. I thought Mr Bole sounded fine on some track, and I would like to add a liquid dimension to my appreciation of the man.

London's stonewall festival is now held in its stride, but

London's stonewall festival is now held in its stride, but

## Story with the wrong ending

You could say that Kenneth James almost got his own way in the end.

The bachelor schoolmaster from Lower Hembury, East London, who was a schoolmaster and there was to be no funeral, and that his ashes were to be inconspicuously deposited "in any convenient dustbin for refuse collection on the usual way."

He died last May. His will was published yesterday, and his body and his nephew had both signed it without reading it, so they did not know what his last request.

In the event, his ashes were buried in the absence of any funeral, in a dustbin at the Manor Park Crematorium, in East London.

"We did not know of his wishes about the ashes," said a spokesman. But you could say he achieved part of his request: his name at least "buried" in anonymity.

A pair of long-length linen

unbuttoned, and the schoolmaster was buried in the dustbin at the Manor Park Crematorium, in East London.

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## US ECONOMY FALTERS

The United States has additionally been thought of as the most robust economy in the Western industrialized world. It is less subject to shocks from overseas than the more open trading economies of Europe, or Japan with its heavy structural dependence on exports. Because of this relative insulation, it is better able to develop at its own pace than the other industrialized economies. Its currency has, also, historically been more stable than most, partly because of its international role, which limits the desire and ability of holders of dollars to switch into other currencies in response to purely American developments; and partly because when all is said and done most international investors see the American economy as sound, and the American business one of the best in which to have a stake.

This confidence seemed fully justified in the first six months of this year. Despite the continued sluggish growth in the rest of the world the United States expanded vigorously. The rate in the first three months, indeed, was considerably faster than had been expected and the pace was almost maintained in the second three months of the year. However a spate of gloomy indicators over the summer has led many economists at home and abroad to doubt whether the United States can continue to move ahead at this pace and pull the rest of the world with it.

There is little doubt that the growth rate of 6 to 7 per cent experienced in the first half of this year will not be matched in the coming months. The composite index of leading indicators, which caused such concern when provisional figures showed a decline for three months in a row, was subsequently estimated to have risen in July and August, after only two months in decline. Its continuing implication, however, is still a significant slowing

down of economic activity. This is certainly the case with house building, which was very strong in the early part of the year. Equally, the weakness of retail sales, which fell even in money terms between March and July, will undermine general business confidence. A slowdown in general consumer demand is widely expected, as personal incomes are now growing less quickly than earlier in the year and unemployment resolutely remains around the 7 per cent mark.

As, however, the economy was expanding much faster than its underlying potential capacity, some slow down now may in any case have been necessary. More worrying, perhaps, is the fact that inflationary patterns are still firmly established, the domestic money supply shows signs of expanding far too fast, the trade and current account deficits have grown alarmingly and are expected to widen further, with the consequent danger to stability of the dollar which is now being taken as a serious threat by the international banking community.

The drastic changes in the underlying economic framework implied by President Carter's proposals on energy and tax reform increase this feeling of uncertainty and have been blamed by some American businessmen for a lack of business confidence, which has held back productive investment, and for the depressed state of the American stock market.

Yesterday's statement by the Treasury Secretary, Mr Michael Blumenthal, that there was little chance of a reduction in the trade deficit next year, led immediately to a weakening of the dollar in foreign exchange markets. This is proof that the dollar is no longer immune to the economic situation, and a warning that the American Government cannot decide to

stimulate the economy, if it shows continued signs of flagging without regard to international developments. Its room for action is also limited by the determination of the chairman of the Federal Reserve, Dr Arthur Burns, to keep to the monetary targets, even if this entails a tightening of credit and rising interest rates.

Pessimism about the American economy has, however, in the past been overdone. It may be so again. The key to a possibly brighter future will be the willingness or otherwise of the business community to invest in new plant and machinery, for it has been the failure of this component of total demand to perform as might have been expected from previous economic cycles that explains the faltering of this recovery. So far the advance orders for capital goods are distinctly encouraging. The tax changes may produce some benefit for range of businesses and the fall in the value of the dollar may provide some welcome stimulus to American exports.

As in the rest of the industrialized world the shock of the last recession has severely damaged the confidence of business and consumers on which growth ultimately depends. The good performance of the American economy early this year showed that the damage was severe, though not fatal. America will continue to help the recovery of the rest of the world by running a large payments deficit next year. The unfortunate thing is that this deficit will be the counterpart of the surplus in the OPEC countries and Japan, and will do little to reduce the deficits elsewhere. Further the pressure which it puts on the dollar is a strain for the world financial system, which it will not be easy to contain.

## AUTONOMY FOR CATALUNYA

The restoration of the Generalitat de Catalunya, thirty-eight years after its suppression by General Franco's forces, is an event to be greeted with some emotion by the Catalan people's many friends and admirers in this country, whether readers of George Orwell or not.

Most often rendered into English as "autonomous government", the word *Generalitat* in fact embraces more than that. First used in the Middle Ages as a shorter name for the *Diputació del General de Catalunya*—a kind of permanent watchdog committee set up by the Courts, or Catalan parliament—the word came to mean all the autonomous institutions of Catalonia taken as a whole, the institutional expression, as it were, of Catalonia's corporate and separate existence. Perhaps the nearest English translation would be "the commonwealth". Under the Statute of 1932 the Generalitat comprised four institutions: a parliament, elected directly by the people with extensive legislative powers; a president, elected by the parliament; a Council, or government, whose members were chosen and dismissed by the president as well as being, like him, responsible to parliament; and a Supreme Court of Justice, whose members were chosen by parliament and independent of the executive.

Despite their many and deep political divisions during the 1930s it would be fair to say that the state was cherished almost all Catalans, and even more so after its abolition and their enforced incorporation into Franco's state, in which Castilian Spanish was the only official language and for long even the most harmless expres-

sion of the Catalan personality was brutally repressed. When after Franco's death it at last became possible to demonstrate in the streets of Barcelona, the cry of "Volem l'Estatut" (we want the statute) was raised unanimously by all the Catalan parties.

It was clear to most of their leaders, however, that a straightforward reenactment of the 1932 Statute would be difficult if not impossible to obtain, since the Spanish Government was obliged to cast constant anxious glances over its shoulder at the reaction of the Spanish army, itself strongly devoted to preserving the unity of Spain and disposed to interpret unity as implying perfect homogeneity in the demand for the statute was essentially rhetorical and emotive, and in private it was generally acknowledged that in fact a new statute would have to be negotiated with the new democratically elected Spanish parliament to suit a new set of circumstances.

Even more rhetorical, as it seemed during the election campaign last May and June, was the call for "the restoration of the Generalitat and the return of its President". The President in question, Senyor Josep Tarradellas, had been elected in exile by a rump parliament in the early 1950s and had lived in exile ever since 1939. It seemed inconceivable that the Spanish government could simply put the clock back to 1939 and recognize the legitimacy of a Catalan government-in-exile. Would that not logically entail the abdication of King Juan Carlos himself, and the recognition of the Republican government-in-exile as the legal government of Spain? Accordingly the name

of President Tarradellas was put forward most vigorously by those who sought a confrontation with Madrid, and with rather less conviction by those who looked forward to a realistic negotiation.

The situation was changed by the election result, which in Catalonia—in sharp contrast with the rest of Spain—gave a majority to the left-wing parties. Setting logic aside, the Spanish prime minister—who is a very astute politician—decided to seek agreement with Senyor Tarradellas in the first instance, in order to cut some of the ground from under the feet of the Catalan deputies, and especially of the largest group among them, the Socialists, who were likely to be the most impatient in their demands for autonomy. Earlier this month the tactic nearly backfired, when the Catalan Socialist leader, Senyor Reventós, threatened to veto any project which did not immediately recognize a Catalan parliament as well as the president and his Council. But having by then secured the support of President Tarradellas, Senyor Suarez was able to embark on a second round of negotiations in which the Catalan political parties were included, and which has now ended in an agreement ensuring their representation within the Council.

This has enabled the Generalitat to be reconstituted in a provisional form with President Tarradellas at its head, pending the drafting of a new Spanish constitution in which the Catalan deputies will certainly play a full part. The return of Senyor Tarradellas to Barcelona as president, within the next few days, should be one of the more memorable public occasions in recent European history.

## Direct grant schools

From the Headmaster of Chichester High School for Boys  
Sir, The report that a future Conservative government would give priority to the revival and enlargement of the direct grant system in secondary education (The Times, September 23) will be greeted by many people with considerable disappointment. For the last 12 years secondary reorganization has been a battle ground between the parties. The sufferers have frequently been pupils and their parents and the conflict has contributed to the low morale of the teaching profession. One hoped that the Great Debate might herald an end to doctrinal conflict and the beginning of concentration on problems neglected during the upheaval of reorganization. Of course there are and ought to be different emphases between the Labour and Conservative parties, but polarisation, with each party undoing the work of its predecessor, as at Tameside, is entirely destructive.

The abolition of the direct grant system by the present Government was regretted by many. Its significance was largely symbolic and in some places it reduced educational opportunities for the ablest, but like the abolition in 1948 of university seats in Parliament, one does not reasonably have to be a former direct grant school themselves in order to be plunged into further periods of uncertainty with a Conservative government restoring the grant and a future Labour government as certainly abolishing it again. Is it in any case really defensible in the 1980s to create free or assisted grammar school

places for some 5 to 10 per cent of the population? If large subsidies to what are in reality independent schools? We may want centres of academic excellence but what we end up with are inevitably socially selective schools. The demand for grammar schools will have to be met by a comprehensive system of secondary schools, which will have to be reorganized and comprehensively restructured, consequently yet again reorganized, to provide a geographical spread throughout the country, when a major parent concern is already 10 miles away from home? Has the Conservative Party consulted its potential voters? My impression in this predominantly Conservative area of the country is that there is no demand for such a policy. The main concern of parents is to ensure that their children are not at a disadvantage in the school system, but that the comprehensive schools shall cater, as they were intended to do, for pupils of the highest ability as well as for those of average and below average ability.

The Headmasters' Conference was lukewarm in its reception of Mr St. John Stevas' schemes. One hopes the Conservative Party will take this as an indication that even its beneficiaries may not be enthusiastic about the restoration and extension of the direct grant system and that to many people it will appear to be a costly distraction from the task of ensuring that the comprehensive system is given the resources to meet the needs of all pupils. Yours faithfully, P. R. WATKINS, Headmaster, Chichester High School for Boys, Kingsham Road, Chichester, Sussex.

## Parents on school boards

From Mrs G. Eisner  
Sir, Where is the evidence that parents want more say in the running of schools? Derbyshire has operated a system of electing parents to governing and management boards of maintained schools for two years. The experience does not bear out the contention that parents are eager either to stand for election or to exercise their right to vote. At an election held last week to fill vacancies for two parent governors—the second held since the constitution providing for such elections was introduced—35 parents turned up to vote. The school has 1,013 girls on its roll. The turnout to choose parent managers for primary schools in elections held so far was six and seven. Yours faithfully, G. EISNER, 69 Macclesfield Road, Buxton, Derbyshire.

## Civil Service pay

From Mr I. B. Simpson  
Sir, Mr Kendall's delightful suggestion (September 23) that civil servants do not receive increments in pay, they just have decrements removed, is reminiscent of a Swiss advertisement which some years ago stated that in Switzerland hotel prices are not raised in summer and are even lower in winter. Yours faithfully, I. B. SIMPSON, 7 Sandy Lane, Petersham, Richmond, Surrey.

## Imposing laws on Ulster

From Mr John Biggs-Davison, MP for Epping Forest (Conservative)

Sir, In support of the Headmaster of St Columba's College (September 28) may I say that the Conservative Opposition, deploring the Government's political inactivity in Northern Ireland, which is encouraging sectarianism, have repeatedly urged the British rule to be made more humane and less undemocratic.

While, however, direct rule continues and British policy is to bring in a devolved system of government, it is inexcusable for Ministers to impose by Order in Council such measures as the compulsory wearing of seat belts. Whatever the merits and the different opinions on this question, such across political and religious barriers. The Great Britain legislation thereon has so far been rejected by Parliament. Furthermore, it is properly a matter for a devolved government and legislature. So is the educational upheaval on which Monsignor Coulter writes so wisely, and the proposed and controversial changes in the law of divorce and of homosexuality.

The man in Whitehall or even in Stormont Castle does not always know what is best for the people of Northern Ireland. Yours faithfully, JOHN BIGGS-DAVISON, House of Commons, September 28.

## Irish attitudes

From Lord Kilbracken

Sir, Although Bernard Levin's facetious attitude (September 23) to the tragedy of Northern Ireland is deplorable, he may perhaps be forgiven for accepting uncritically, and without checking their source, the conclusions offered in Oxford recently by an Irish politician as Conor Cruise O'Brien.

Had he examined them, he would have found that Senator O'Brien had no justification, certainly not "a very considerable body of research evidence", for concluding that "most people in Ireland were not interested in using North and South". His assumptions for Northern Ireland were based on pure guesswork. As for the Republic, his figures were stated to be derived solely from the recent monumental work, *Prejudice and Tolerance in Ireland*, by Fr Michael MacGréil.

This mine of information on Irish attitudes to an enormous range of subjects is little concerned with the Northern question and in fact only two of the dozens of questions put to respondents have any real bearing on reunification. The first asked if "national unity" was thought to be "an essential condition for the just solution of the present Northern problem". To this the replies were: Yes 57.5%, No 36.4%. Don't know 6.2%. It should be noted that a much higher percentage must certainly have voted for eventual unity though not holding it essential right away for the purpose specified.

The only other relevant question asked if respondents held certain views on the desirability of (a) desirable (b) acceptable or (c) undesirable. The proposal found desirable by overwhelmingly the greatest number (64%) was "a 32-county Republic with one central government". To a further 14% this would be acceptable, leaving only 22% who found it undesirable. If such a high percentage desire immediate reunification, it may be inferred with certainty that an even greater number (including, for instance, myself) hope for it at some more distant date.

The questions were put to a sample of 2,311 Dubliners, all of whom were over 21 in 1972/73, so that the beliefs of everyone living outside the capital, besides everyone who aged out of the sample, are totally excluded. When it is remembered that more Protestants are concentrated in Dublin than anywhere else in the Republic, and that the young probably tend to be above the national average in their support for reunification, the picture is even harder to understand how Senator O'Brien's conclusions were reached or credence attached to them. Yours faithfully, JOHN KILBRACKEN, Kilgarragh, Co. Leitrim.

## Hived off

From Mr R. M. Duggan  
Sir, At this time of year the 35,000 British bee keepers have gathered in the harvests and are now storing their precious combs for protection from the ravages of pests such as mice and wax moth.

For British standard combs in their boxes of ten, one above another but each separated by a single folded sheet of The Times which comfortably covered each box with a margin to spare.

To my horror I found that the folded sheet of your newspaper dated Thursday, September 22, 1977, no longer covers the width of the boxes. I have therefore reduced your sheet widths 1 1/16" sometime since September 17, 1977.

On Friday I bought The Daily Telegraph only to find to my great dismay that their width has suffered even greater deprivation, for it has lost its width since spring cleaning on September 13, 1977.

Bent on finding an answer such as the Common Market, nutrition, or a Socialist Government, I started measuring and found the length of each newspaper has not changed. The Times is still 23 1/2" or 60 cm, but The Daily Telegraph is an irrational 79 by 61 cm. The latter dimension happens to be 24".

I considered whether last year's high potato price or the Cod War so affected the fish and chip price that the area of a sheet could be reduced, but finally concluded that newspapers are really hiding from the public an increase in cost of each precious square centimetre, and that the price of honey will inevitably rise. Yours faithfully, R. M. DUGGAN, Redstone Wood Cottage, Phillanthropic Lane, Redhill, Surrey, September 26.

## Productivity of British industry

From Mr Oliver Stutchbury

Sir, In terms of the received wisdom, Mr Rees-Mogg's argument in "One Dutch man-hour=two British man-hours" (September 28) is so overwhelming that one wonders why these idiotic British workers do not improve their productivity.

The answer is to be found in the idiotic system which the received wisdom has produced. A system in which over a million people (a growing number of whom are young) live in unsought idleness, while the rest work for rewards which decrease spectacularly the harder they work. A system in which one growing arm of a industries—expensive bureaucracy (the supplementary benefits commission) is dishing out public money which many of the exponents of the received wisdom think that another growing arm of the bureaucracy (the Inland Revenue) should take away.

All we have to do to double our standard of living, writes Mr Rees-Mogg, "is to become as efficient as the Dutch". If doubling their standard of living means getting twice the system they've got now, the workers want none of it. They have unconventional wisdom enough to see that there is not nearly enough paid work to be done in this automated age. Until the Government starts to address its mind to how to share out more sensibly what work has to be done, no one will (quite rightly) pay it any attention. Yours faithfully, OLIVER STUTCHBURY, Individual House, 45 South Street, Eastbourne, East Sussex, September 28.

From Mr J. R. V. Coutts

Sir, It seemed to me that there is a strong case for a sequel to Mr Rees-Mogg's excellent article. His article made it quite clear that as a result of overmanaging we are in danger of pricing ourselves out of world markets, thereby effectively reducing our standard of living. However, this exceptionally clear analysis itself raises the question as to why the work force in this country is less willing to accept, as compared with, say, the work force in Holland, the necessary changes in manning levels that result from the introduction of new machinery. To put it another way, why is the management in this country less successful than our international competitors at changing the attitudes of workers to modernization schemes? Yours faithfully, J. R. V. COUTTS, The Court Lodge, Chelchfield, Kent, September 29.

From Mr J. R. Holden

Sir, I am amazed that such a well informed article as yours (September 28) can still be contrived so as to miss the point. British productivity is low because of overmanaging brought about by the defensive (otherwise known as restrictive) practices of workers and, in general, management does not have the wit to overcome these obstacles. Why? And why is this feature peculiar to Britain? A simplified answer could be that British workers particularly resent being told how to do their job by other people whose objectives appear to be at variance with those of the workers themselves. For example, why should skilled craftsmen adapt the organization of their work on the factory floor when the benefits accruing from that reorganization will go not to them but to the asset-strippers and management consultants in some distant office?

In case you had not noticed, the so-called "class" conflict has shifted away from workers v capitalists (through such financial devices as pension schemes and life assurance the workers themselves are now the majority shareholders in British industry), to workers v managers and, until the managers come down from their self-appointed positions of high command, recognizing in the process that it is in their own interest to work with the workers, they will remain unable to motivate their fellow workers. Management is a valuable skill, and one which most workers are prepared to recognize as such, but until it is seen to be operating in the common interest of all concerned, British workers will continue to reject management initiatives that offer no immediate or tangible reward to themselves and which actually appear harmful to their own interests. Why should they do otherwise? Yours faithfully, J. R. HOLDEN, 11 Melton Court, Havelock Road, Croydon, Surrey, September 28.

From Mr P. Lloyd-Williams

Sir, William Rees-Mogg's article (September 28) prompted me to refer to Henry Pellings' paper-back history of *British Trade Unionism* (first published in 1959). The Times has published a series of articles in 1962 on "The Crisis of British Industry", in which it was argued that trade unionism and the restrictive practices it encouraged were responsible for the weakened competitive position of British industry compared with American and German.

Plus ça change... Yours sincerely, PETER LLOYD WILLIAMS, Willow House, Bathampton, Bath, September 28.

## A service economy

From Lord Kaldor, FBA

Sir, Mr E. C. Wood (September 21) seems to be living in a statistical dream world when he says that "our invisible exports exceed our exports of manufactured goods". According to the official CSO figures our gross credits from services of all kinds (sea transport, civil aviation, travel, financial services and all other services) amounted to £9,206m in 1976. Our gross debits were £6,608m, leaving a surplus of £2,598m. In the same year our manufactured exports amounted to £21,338m. Our imports of manufactures, on a comparable basis, amounted to £15,550m, leaving a surplus of £5,788m, or more than twice as much as the surplus on our invisible exports. Thus, despite our disastrous industrial record, our manufactures are still far more important than services not only in the provision of employment, but in paying for our indispensable imports.

There is a growing band of enthusiasts (including, I regret to say, my distinguished expatriate, David Howell), who believe that the future of Britain lies in becoming a Great Service Economy. Unfortunately they never explain what they mean by this. Do they mean tourism? I doubt whether Britain's destiny lies in becoming the Venice of the twenty-first century; or whether our national talents are best deployed as cooks, waiters or hotel assistants. But for the moment all hotels, restaurants and pubs employ only 650,000 altogether, and the greater part of them serve natives, not foreign tourists.

## Future of nuclear power

From Mr Paul Sieghart

Sir, Mr F. J. Chapple and Mr John Lyons (September 27) are right to be concerned about our future energy supplies. Not only the jobs of their union members, but the quality of life of all of us, will become increasingly dependent, during the rest of this century and beyond, on supplies of the right kinds of energy in the right places at the right times. It is therefore good to find their voice added to the current debate.

There would be better still if they could address themselves to the right issue. I cannot answer for Mr Benn, but the letters which I have written to you on behalf of Justice have never suggested that we shall not need some nuclear power (exactly how much, no one seems to know) to bridge the prospective energy gap. Our worries are confined to one out of several possible nuclear fuel cycles; the one that depends on the production and distribution of plutonium in commercial quantities. The Flowers Commission—a body at least as independent and knowledgeable as the two distinguished men from whose errors Mr Chapple and Mr Lyons quote—has expressed grave disquiet about

in general, management does not have the wit to overcome these obstacles. Why? And why is this feature peculiar to Britain? A simplified answer could be that British workers particularly resent being told how to do their job by other people whose objectives appear to be at variance with those of the workers themselves. For example, why should skilled craftsmen adapt the organization of their work on the factory floor when the benefits accruing from that reorganization will go not to them but to the asset-strippers and management consultants in some distant office?

In case you had not noticed, the so-called "class" conflict has shifted away from workers v capitalists (through such financial devices as pension schemes and life assurance the workers themselves are now the majority shareholders in British industry), to workers v managers and, until the managers come down from their self-appointed positions of high command, recognizing in the process that it is in their own interest to work with the workers, they will remain unable to motivate their fellow workers. Management is a valuable skill, and one which most workers are prepared to recognize as such, but until it is seen to be operating in the common interest of all concerned, British workers will continue to reject management initiatives that offer no immediate or tangible reward to themselves and which actually appear harmful to their own interests. Why should they do otherwise? Yours faithfully, J. R. HOLDEN, 11 Melton Court, Havelock Road, Croydon, Surrey, September 28.

It is the present structural organization of management itself that is so alien to the British way of working and, until it is adapted to meet the characteristics of the working people of this country, British industry will remain weak and uncompetitive. Meanwhile the unions will continue to portray themselves as the workers' representatives in the on-going "class" conflict, acquiring as much support, and therefore power, as the managers' representatives care to allow them—by default. Yours faithfully, J. R. HOLDEN, 11 Melton Court, Havelock Road, Croydon, Surrey, September 28.

From Mr P. Lloyd-Williams  
Sir, William Rees-Mogg's article (September 28) prompted me to refer to Henry Pellings' paper-back history of *British Trade Unionism* (first published in 1959). The Times has published a series of articles in 1962 on "The Crisis of British Industry", in which it was argued that trade unionism and the restrictive practices it encouraged were responsible for the weakened competitive position of British industry compared with American and German.

Plus ça change... Yours sincerely, PETER LLOYD WILLIAMS, Willow House, Bathampton, Bath, September 28.

In sea and air transport our purchases of services from foreigners are nearly as great as our foreign earnings. This leaves the City—the merchant bankers, the insurance men, etc.—where it is said that we lead the world. It is true that the City is our fastest growing economic sector. Its earnings are estimated to have increased more than five-fold and the volume of employment in banking and financial services has doubled during the past ten years. But even so, the gross earnings in 1976 were only £1,086m, and the total employment in all insurance, banking, financial and other business services amounted only to just over one million.

True, we employ a great many people in wholesale and retail distribution (nearly three million), but it is goods, not services, which they distribute. More important still, we employ another five million or so as teachers, doctors, nurses, accountants, artists, solicitors and civil servants of the central and local government. The great majority of these are (directly or indirectly) paid out of taxation. So where is the base of prosperity which would enable us to disperse with factories and other nasty work places full of restrictive practices, and spend our lives pleasantly in writing, painting, singing or arranging mergers and Eurodollar loans in the City? Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS KALDOR, King's College, Cambridge, September 21.

The long term social consequences of a "plutonium economy" are not least on civil liberties. Other reports of comparable authority and independence in other countries have, independently, sounded similar warnings. Justice can do no more than repeat and from its special knowledge and concern with human rights and the rule of law elaborate and amplify that particular area of disquiet.

To provide the leadership for the Electricity Supply Industry Employees' National Committee is a difficult and responsible job. I am sure that we can be confident that Mr Chapple and Mr Lyons will discharge it well, and will bear in mind not only the job security of their living members, but also the kind of society in which their children and grandchildren may one day find themselves living. Without any nuclear power, it might well be cold and nasty. But with a fully developed plutonium fuel cycle, it might be horrid in a different way. We simply cannot afford to get this particular decision wrong. Yours, etc, PAUL SIEGHART, Joint Chairman of Executive Committee, Justice, 2 Clement's Inn, Strand, WC2.

## Radical thought in universities

From Dr A. H. Halsey and others

Sir, Professor Gould's pamphlet for a body, the Institute for the Study of Conflict, well known for its links with the political right and the intelligence services, purports to reveal "Marxist and Radical penetration" within British education. You observe (Leader, September 21) that the evidence produced by Professor Gould fails to support his alarmist tone, and the weakness of his recommendation that vigilance is needed to challenge Marxist errors. In our view his use of evidence and call for vigilance require further comment.

His technique is to gather quotations from various Marxist and Radical writings and to list various left wing individuals and groups among academics, teachers and social workers, with the aim of showing them all to be part of a Grand Conspiracy to subvert liberal and pluralist values. It is suggested that all who accept or are influenced by any aspect of Marxist thought, or any other ideas conducive to such acceptance, are part of the network—above all if they "put any such ideas into practice." "Radical" appears to describe anyone Professor Gould might regard as receptive to any Marxist ideas. Friends are abundant. Radicals are held to advocate "irrevocable change" to "impose a cultural revolution" to be either Communists or fellow travellers, manipulators and manipulators. Their own intentions are "front organisations." Any proclaimed adherence to liberal values or democratic principles is purely tactical, designed to achieve one thing—"control" and more another. There is nothing anyone on the left can do to escape Professor Gould's net.

He states that the very different ideas he discusses develop a "serious rebuttal" but nowhere does he attempt this, instead, he uses language upon disfigure of educational institutions, administrators and others in a nation to act inhumanly towards anyone who might be seen to represent views which are in effect of this miserable document can be to poison the educational atmosphere, facilitating the intimidation of the critical and the unorthodox. Radicals in general are claimed to be intolerant and repressive. The one effect of such suits by association is itself to encourage intolerance and repression.

We agree with John Milton, who wrote *Areopagitica* to establish the point that "if it come to prohibiting, there is not aught more likely to be prohibited than truth itself; whose first appearance is to our eyes bearded and damned with prejudice and custom is more unobscured than many errors." Publication of what we believe to be error is in fact a service to truth. Milton argued, truth will prevail in free and open discussion—though it was careful to distinguish such discussion from the "smears and innuendoes indulged in by the Press brawlers of his day, as by McCarthyites and Professor Gould since. But then Milton was a dangerous radical in the eyes of the orthodox. If he had had his chance, they would have made his point by putting him on their black list.

A. H. HALSEY, Director, Department of Social and Administrative Studies, Oxford University.  
R. H. HILTON, Professor of Medieval Social History, Birmingham University.  
CHRISTOPHER HILL, Master of Balliol College, Oxford University.  
DOROTHY HODGKIN, Professor of Chemical Crystallography, Oxford University.  
STEVEN LUKIN, Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford University.  
CHARLES TAYLOR, Chichele Professor of Social and Political Theory, Oxford University.  
RAYMOND WILLIAMS, Professor of Drama, Cambridge University.  
Balliol College, Oxford, September 27.

## Oil at Windsor

From the Director of the Institute of Geological Sciences

Sir, While not wishing to question the expertise of Mr Bennison (your article of September 21 refers) I feel that there may be factors that may have escaped him in his assessment of the oil potential of the Windsor Dome. True, the Lower Greensand formation lies beneath the Castle and the Chalk at a depth of about 1,000ft and is folded into the sort of structure so sought after by the oil industry.

However, lest the Royal Household be alarmed, the Department of Energy excited, and Mr Whalley (Leader of September 26) mortgages his garden in anticipation, it is only proper to point out that the Greensand of the Windsor area has indeed been geologically explored and exploited, not for oil, but for other increasingly precious fluid, and of which several millions of gallons per day are or have been pumped from wells within three miles of the Castle, without so much as a whiff of hydrocarbons. This information would certainly have been given to Mr Bennison had he made the appropriate enquiries, when he visited the Geological Museum.

Yours faithfully, AUSTIN W. WOODLAND, Institute of Geological Sciences, Exhibition Road, South Kensington, SW7, September 28.

## Profitable lessons

From the Reverend J. M. L. L. Bogle

Sir, We are hearing a good deal now about the creation of wealth—recently from the Headmaster of Westminster School—as one of the aims of education. Is this activity, or is it not, to be sharply distinguished from making money? Yours faithfully, JAMES M. L. L. BOGLE, The Vicarage, 8 Hengrave Road, SE23, September 23.



# Foreign Report

## Tales of two 'French' cities

QUEBEC Most newcomers to Montreal are shocked by their first impressions. English-speakers from other parts of Canada, for example, having listened for so long to the complaints of their French-speaking fellow citizens about the English language oppressors, are shaken at finding French so prominent in the city.

Foreigners, too, even if they have heard the claim that Montreal is the world's second largest French-speaking city, are often surprised by the preeminence of the language. The image of North America abroad seems to one of a monolithic English-speaking block with a few insignificant groups of tenacious Italians, Ukrainians, Poles, Germans, Greeks and French-Canadians maintaining folkloric cultures

much like the Welsh and the Irish.

That perception holds for most minority groups in North America but it is quickly dispelled when French-Canadians arrive in Montreal. Everyone you encounter from the man studying your passport or the boy filling your car with petrol, will be a French-speaker. The newsstands sell four vigorous French-language dailies and a plethora of weeklies and magazines.

Radio programmes are mainly in French and the two national television networks, one publicly owned and one commercially sponsored, broadcast seven days a week exclusively in French. It is said that more original television programming in French is produced in Montreal than in Paris.

Labour MP Mr Eric Moonman was struck by some of these things on a recent visit to Montreal. In an article in *The Times* recently he seemed perplexed as to why the Quebec Government would want to pass a law to ensure the supremacy of French, when "with 80 per cent of the population French-speaking, the economic life of Montreal is already French."

Many Canadians, both English and French-speaking, share Mr Moonman's bewilderment, especially those who remember what Montreal was like 20 years ago. Then English speakers dominated the city and the French language and culture were moribund.

Draconian measures to protect French and limit the spread of English in schools and businesses would have made sense then but none were taken. Today, they are not needed and yet they attract wide popular support.

Many French-Canadians, it seems, still believe their language and culture are threatened, although this is now absurd. The civilization of five million French-Canadians in Quebec could no more easily be wiped out than, say, the civilization of five million Danes.

What is unusual in the Quebec case, however, is that approximately one million English-speaking aliens live in the French-Canadians' homeland, most of them concentrated in the Montreal area. And even though they are increasingly docile, the numbers are so large that they inevitably have an effect on French-Canadian behaviour.

I caught a glimpse of this a few years ago while living in Quebec City. Its unique old-world charm apart, Quebec City is a typical provincial town—like York or Bristol or Norwich—with the sole difference that it is totally French-speaking. In a population approaching half a million, fewer than 20,000 are native English-speakers and all of them speak French. You could no more function in English in Quebec City than you could function in French in York.

As in all provincial towns, its people live constantly in the shadow of the capital. And for French-Canadians the capital is Montreal.

It is difficult to get through a day in Quebec City without meeting someone who has just come from Montreal or is about to go there or whose life is being influenced by someone in Montreal. Montreal is the centre of the French-Canadian universe, just as London is the centre of the British universe.

And yet the French-Canadian who approaches Montreal for the first time, almost as an Arab approaches Mecca, the shock and disillusion could not be more complete. The city appears, in his unbelieving eyes, English.

Of course his first impression is wrong. But just as Mr Eric Moonman and other visitors are struck by the Frenchness of Montreal, so the French-Canadian is shocked by its Englishness. Neither is seeing the city accurately. Their attention focuses on what they are unaccustomed to seeing and hearing. And the French-Canadian sees only buildings with Sun Life of Canada and Hudson's Bay Co. on them, hears only English radio stations and sees only English newspapers on the newsstands.

The effect is spiritually devastating. Montreal, his capital of his "patrie", centre of his culture, turns out to be a place that compromises its identity in thousands of ways with an alien culture.

My wife and I made this discovery for ourselves on a weekend trip to Montreal. We had been living in Quebec City for about a year and were sufficiently immersed in the community that we, too, were probably excited about heading for the big capital.

But how shocked we were by the seeming prevalence of English in Montreal. Worse, the small encounters of very day life were tense and psychologically fatiguing.

It was a horrible weekend and we could not wait to get back to the warmth and comfort of Quebec City.

That was five years ago. At the time, I concluded that the Quebec problem was not really a Quebec problem. It was a Montreal problem. And we would have trouble in Canada until the Montreal problem was resolved. I think that is still true but I believe considerable progress is being made.

The interaction of social and economic historical currents is striking. The gradual and natural movement of Canadian national economic centre from Montreal to Toronto since the Second World War has caused high levels of unemployment in Quebec, which in turn fuelled French-Canadian nationalist and separatist movements.

The unsettled social climate has accelerated the movement of English-speakers and the head offices of many of the big companies have moved to Toronto. While exacerbating the economic situation, this has also removed many of the objects of French-Canadian resentment and thus defused social tensions.

Montreal is slowly becoming a healthy, dynamic economic capital and losing its status as a sick national centre. Fortunately, the region it dominates does coincide with the area of Canada inhabited almost exclusively by French-speakers. Like any transition that begins with a construction in economic activity, the change has not been easy.

Many people have suffered. Unemployment has hovered at the intolerable 8.10 per cent level for several years. Many English-speakers with roots in the province extending back more than 200 years have been jostled unfairly by the new dispensation. Strains on the social fabric have been severe and terrorism has erupted occasionally.

But as in the case of Britain, which has also had to live through an economic contraction, what is remarkable is the extent to which civility has been preserved.

The bitter complaints coming out of Quebec these days about English-language education being withdrawn are grossly distorted. What is being withdrawn is government funding for providing English language education to immigrants. Immigrants are still free to have their children educated privately in English. And the Government will still pay for the children of English-speaking natives to be educated in English. French-speaking natives enjoy no similar generosity in any other province of Canada.

Ian Rodger

## Where they don't 'sing' without torture



Torture is such a distasteful subject that there is always a temptation to dismiss it, or pretend that it does not exist. Yet it is in fact very much a part of the modern world, and this was brought home by the case of Dr Sheila Cassidy, who was arrested and tortured by the Chilean intelligence service in 1975.

Dr Cassidy has now written a book about her experiences in Chile, *Adaptability to Believe*, published by Collins this week. She came to London from Ampleforth, where she is preparing to become a nun, to launch it, and discussed the whole episode in the interview.

The point about torture was that it was a very efficient means of interrogation, she said. Few people were able to stand up to it for long, and this meant that interrogators, whether in Chile or elsewhere, were able to get information about people's friends and contacts that they would not have got in any other way.

She quoted General Pinochet, the head of the Chilean junta, as saying in the interview: "Without torture they don't sing." "It's true," she said. "People don't talk unless they are tortured. But most of them do tell the truth once it starts."

In her case, she had begun by trying to get the interrogators in order to protect her friends. She had been strapped to the *patilla*, a structure like a bed-frame, almost as a matter of routine after her arrest, and given electric shocks. She gave false information, and the interrogators believed her at first.

But it was not long before they realized that they had been fooled. Dr Cassidy was taken back to the *patilla* and given much more brutal treatment, with the shocks coming faster and faster. "You can't think when the current is on. You're convulsing," she says. So she broke, and gave the information the interrogators were after, something that made her feel deeply ashamed afterwards.

She wonders now how much longer she would have been able to hold out if it had been a matter of protecting the life of someone to whom she was very close. In Santiago, it was a matter of friends and nuns, and she had a sense that they were protected by their position, which made her feel easier in her mind.

Dr Cassidy seems a most unlikely person to have gone through all this. A direct, outgoing and unassuming person, she freely admits that she has no interest in politics. "I've never voted," she told me.

wouldn't know how to vote in the United Kingdom. I don't often read papers. Just leaf through for news of Chile. I'm interested in people, and in justice, but not in politics."

In her book, she gives a very personal account of her life in Chile, first under the Allende regime and then under the military junta. She writes with a nice touch of humour about her own rather ignorant approach to the tense Chilean situation, but she pulls out punches in describing what she went through.

She had gone to Chile in 1971 to get away from the "rat-race" of a doctor's life in Britain. While she was there she worked in several different hospitals, and was appalled by the conditions in which the Chilean poor had to live. She became a strong supporter of the Allende Government because of its aim of redistributing wealth.

Her troubles began in October, 1975, two years after the military coup, when she was asked to see a priest under the name of a doctor's life in Britain. She was there to see a doctor, but she was also a strong supporter of the Allende Government because of its aim of redistributing wealth.

Her troubles began in October, 1975, two years after the military coup, when she was asked to see a priest under the name of a doctor's life in Britain. She was there to see a doctor, but she was also a strong supporter of the Allende Government because of its aim of redistributing wealth.

Now that it is all over, Dr Cassidy sees herself as having a mission. "I feel that I am an ambassador for the others in the camps," she said, "the voice of the voiceless." She thought the fact that she, an Englishwoman and a doctor, had undergone all this made it easier for English people to believe in "People can touch my pain," she says.

She now feels a special commitment to Chile, and to Latin America in general, which she says she got to love while she was there. In fact, she plans to give a large part of the royalties from her book to a new Latin American centre that will open in Hoxton Square in London next month. Its aim will be to provide a place for refugees, as well as giving information about Latin America to British people.

Peter Strafford

## In the Loire the sense of humour is like the wine, mainly dry or medium dry.



"My wine is not art to be kept."

with some white; but the wit is definitely dry.

Nevertheless, Loire wines have a very distinct family likeness.

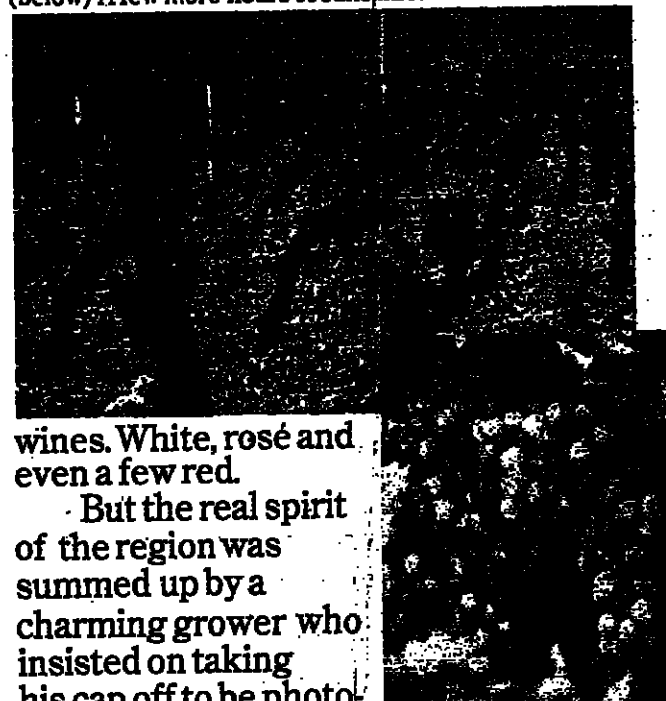
They are not at all pretentious, but made to be drunk young, while they are at their most refreshing. The nicest description given to us was "cascadeur", which literally means 'like a waterfall'; in other words, light, carefree and refreshing.

In both Muscadet and Anjou there is an air of reverence at the door of every cellar. It's a bit like going into a church. Especially as some of the cellars even have stained glass windows. Inside, the beams and barrels are often decoratively carved and the walls covered with plaques and inscriptions. Although these are not always so reverent.

In one cellar we were greeted with the wine grower's prayer: Oh God, give me life for a long time, work not too often, love from time to time, but Muscadet for ever.

Not to be outdone, in Anjou we came across the legend: If drinking was a sin,

Very old vines, probably 40-50 years old. (below) A few more hours of sunshine...

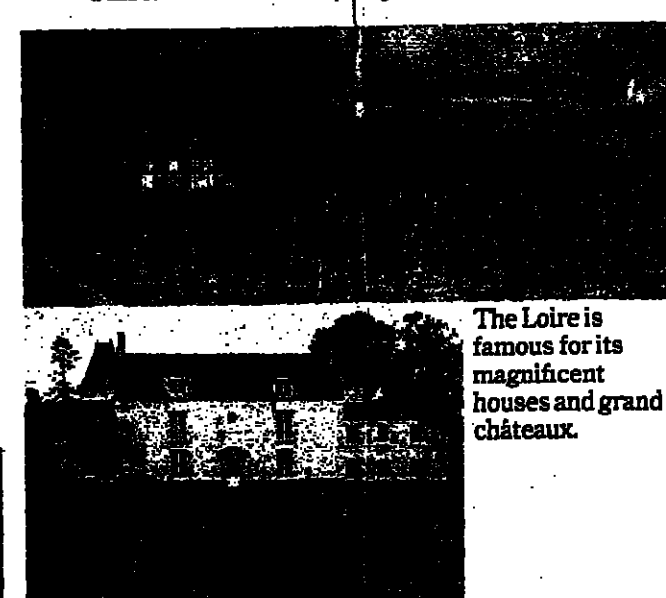


wines. White, rosé and even a few red.

But the real spirit of the region was summed up by a charming grower who insisted on taking his cap off to be photographed, even though he was completely bald.

He said "My wine is not art to be kept." In other words, get on and drink it, and enjoy it.

And who are we, or you, to argue?



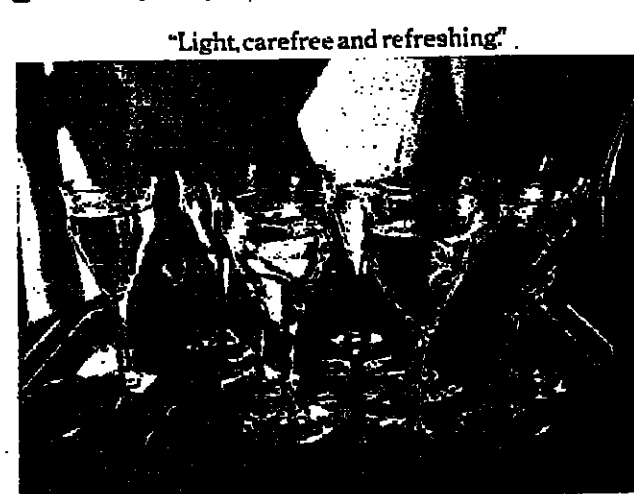
The Loire is famous for its magnificent houses and grand châteaux.

The Loire Valley has been called the 'happy smiling part of France'. During our stay this overall appraisal was confirmed again and again.

However, within this historic region, there is famous for its great Châteaux, which are noticeable differences in both the people and the wine.

In Muscadet, the Atlantic climate produces a light, dry, almost salty white wine, perfect with seafood. Here the humour is medium dry.

However in Anjou the wines are generally slightly sweeter and mainly rosé.



"Light, carefree and refreshing."

"Enter those who wish, leave those who can"

God wouldn't have made Anjou wine so good. But perhaps our favourite story from the Loire came as we sipped wine in the cellar of a small grower called Monsieur Guillet.

In response to the question, "Do you think your wine has any real health-giving properties?" he shrugged his shoulders in the way only a Frenchman can, and pointed to an inscription on the wall: "You see more old drunkards than old doctors," it said.

After just three days in the Loire we held many memories and had tasted many delicious



On every bottle of Loire wine you will see the words 'Appellation Contrôlée', which is France's highest designation of fine wines.

If you'd like a free colour leaflet on Appellation Contrôlée wine, please write to Food from France, 14 Berkeley Street, London W1X 5AD.

## Paying more for less

Everyone knows instinctively that a half-pound jar, tin or packet of food almost always costs more than half of the price of the pound size. It is accepted as a fact of life and is seldom questioned. After all, it costs as much to stick a label on a small tin as on a large one.

Yet when the principle of unequal differentials may be reasonable, and clear the different rates of differential are often not. In other words, it may be hard enough to work out whether Brand X offers better value than Brand Y, but it becomes much worse when the problem is to decide whether a small Y represents better value than a medium X.

The Price Commission once nibbled at the subject of the cost of small packets with its aim directed especially at small bottles of soft "mixer" drinks and "in" pots. The National Consumer Council has examined the general case more recently and has concluded that "the poor pay more."

The table shows first that there is a clear difference in the price per ounce of food

if small packs are bought instead of large ones. That leads to the paradox that those with the least money to spend must pay the most for each ounce of food.

Many doubtless realized that they were making a false economy, but were so short of cash that they had to buy the smallest jar if they wanted to drink coffee at all.

The case of coffee illustrates the difficulty of making quick comparisons of value between sizes of the same brand, let alone different ones. Price is the table, recorded yesterday from a London branch of a large supermarket chain, shows that the buyer of a one-ounce Nescafé pays almost half as much again per ounce as the buyer of a four-ounce jar.

The difference occurs because more four-ounce jars of instant coffee are bought than any other size. That is therefore the size for which competition between brands is sharpest, in most fierce and the size of which the deepest price cuts are made.

The only solution to such confusing differences in prices of food lies in "unit pricing", which the Government is introducing forward in some parts of the food trade. Unit pricing means that each pack carries not only its price but also the price for each ounce of 100 grams of food in it.

Hugh Clayton

Food price comparison		Light packs		Heavy Packs	
		oz.	p	oz.	p
Jar of Nescafé	1	47	125		
Heilmann Mayonnaise	8	40	16	70	
Marmite	2	18	8	59	
Heinz baked beans	5	81	15	18	
Birds custard powder	11	26	22	50	
Eliso	4	11	8	20	
Average price per oz.		4.9p		4.6p	

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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Sept. 19. Dealings End, Today. \$ Contrango Day, Oct. 3. Settlement Day, Oct. 11  
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

**§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days**

[illegible]



Weatherall Green & Smith  
Surveyors & Estate Agents  
100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

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John Foord  
PLANT AND  
MACHINERY  
VALUERS

### Stock Exchange faces restrictive practices inquiry over commissions

Andrew Goodrick-Clarke  
Financial Editor

Stock Exchange commissions are going before the Restrictive Practices Court. The Office of Fair Trading confirmed yesterday that it is now looking closely at the longstanding and controversial rate structure operated by members of the Stock Exchange.

The implications of such a move will not be lost in the stock market. Brokers and shareholders have been keenly aware of the repercussions which allowed the ending of fixed commissions in the United Kingdom in May 1975. Since then, competition in commission rates has forced 150 American brokerage firms to merge or go out of business.

Mr Gordon Borrie, the director general of Fair Trading, will be his next move with the Stock Exchange to end its restrictive practices regarding commissions. If the Stock Exchange refuses to do it, it would be open to the director general to refer the case to the Restrictive Practices Court, a spokesman for the FT said.

Since Mr Robert Fell, chief executive of the Stock Exchange, said yesterday that he would move to break down the present structure, it seems probable that the matter will ultimately be decided by the court.

The time scale for all this is far from clear, however, partly because of the present workload of the Office of Fair Trading. Mr Fell estimated that it would not come a "live issue" at least until next year and possibly not until 1979.

Nevertheless, the Stock Exchange is already preparing its ground. It will apparently argue that the present minimum commission structure has operated since the turn of the century and on the basis that it is quite clear to the client what he is getting for his money.

But the main plank of any Stock Exchange defence, if it is needed, would be the experience in New York. There, brokers were forced to adopt competitive commissions under pressure from the Securities and Exchange Commission. The result was savage discounting by many firms and those specialising in institutional business, where the client has the power to dictate his own terms, suffered particularly badly. Discounts of up to 30 per cent on the rates ruling at May, 1975, have been common.

Financial Editor, page 23

### BICC bid for Dorman Smith

Nicholas Hurst

BICC group, the international non-ferrous and cable company making an agreed cash and offer worth £19m for Dorman Smith the Lancashire wire and cable manufacturer.

Dorman Smith announced it is having bid talks a week after a sharp rise in the shares. Yesterday the ordinary stock rose 4p to 150p, the ordinary 5p to 150p, and other major shareholders holding 63 per cent of the ordinary and 18 per cent of the A have pledged their holdings.

Terms are of one BICC, down at 118p yesterday, plus 25p cash for every Dorman Smith ordinary, and one BICC is 15p in cash for the A shares. There is a cash alternative of 151p for the ordinary and 141p for the non-voters.

The bid results partly from a desire of Mr Geoffrey Barton, the chairman, to liquidate his duties. He has recently gone to live in the Isle Man.

The whole of the board will be resigning if the takeover is successful, although the rest of management will be retained.

Dorman Smith is the market leader in moulded core circuit breakers and has a dominant position in supplying switchgear for industrial and commercial use.

The acquisition is a logical step for BICC, which has been sliding up its industrial products division in an attempt to overcome a downturn in its low-growth cable business. The industrial products division ready has an electrical accessories section, which produces sports and ancillary equipment for sailing, New switches and ar should complete the range.

### EEC lowers forecast for steel output

From Michael Hornby  
Brussels, Sept 29

Steel production in the EEC for the last quarter of this year is forecast at 32 million tonnes, compared with the 34.8 million tonnes predicted in June for the period.

The lower estimate reflects continued depressed demand for steel, particularly from Europe's capital goods sectors, coupled with the after-effects of heavy stockpiling in the second quarter.

The lower forecast was announced here today by Herr Hans Kutscher, a senior official in charge of forward programmes and market analysis.

Herr Kutscher explained that the earlier, more optimistic assessment had been based on the assumption of a "recovery in overall activity in the Community towards the end of 1977 due to an upturn in the capital goods sector."

It was now clear that there was going to be no recovery, he said. The effects of weak demand had been accentuated by a high level of imports which, while running at a lower level than in the second half of last year, still accounted for some 10 per cent of Community consumption.

This is put at 28.9 million tonnes in the last quarter, compared with 29.4 million in the third.

US monitoring plan: America is to propose the setting up of a permanent international group to monitor developments in the crisis-ridden world steel industry.

The proposal will be submitted by the United States delegation during a two-day meeting in Paris of a steel committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development now in session.

### Big brewery share of market 'not exceptional'

By Patricia Tisdall

Sales concentration by a few big companies is not exceptional in the brewing industry if compared with other trades, the Brewers' Society says in a reply to criticisms by the Price Commission.

To make their point, the brewers refer to the 1968 Census of Production which reveals that in more than half the product groups listed the share of the five largest enterprises was higher than in brewing.

The brewers also say that the share of the largest brewing enterprises in Britain is not very different from that in the United States and Belgium and is markedly lower than in Denmark, the Netherlands, Canada, Japan and other countries.

In addition the brewers give a detailed reply to commission comment that there is a high level of vertical integration. They say that the 50,000 or so "dead" outlets that they own represent only 36 per cent of output on and off licences, and these now account for only 55 per cent of the volume of beer sales, down from 66 per cent in 1967.

Given the constraints provided by the licensing laws, they say, "it is not possible to 'compete' simply by opening more outlets". The commission is strongly criticised for ignoring sales through registered clubs and non-brewery off-licences.

The brewers point out that, collectively, these two types of outlet now account for 30 per cent of sales and their rate of growth far exceeds that of "dead" houses.

Since 1967 the number of licensed clubs has gone up by 14 per cent; free trade on licences have risen by 39 per cent and that of free trade restricted licence premises such as restaurants have nearly doubled.

In contrast, the number of on and off licensed premises owned by brewers has dropped by 17 per cent.

The brewers who have produced a lengthy 40-page document backed by two substantial appendices from outside experts, have however, been able to supply much less convincing answers to the more general criticisms implied by the commission that the tied house structure is commercially inefficient.

In answering the commission's accusation that "the high profitability of brewing is masked by the lower profits earned by the rest of the business" the brewers merely repeat the arguments they aired successfully to the Monopolies Commission in 1968. They say it is not possible separately to evaluate their wholesaling and retailing activities.

"The basic point," they say, "is simply that the retail estate exists to provide an outlet for the brewers' products. As such it is its contribution to the overall return of the enterprise which is relevant, not an arbitrary calculation of the margins on retailing in relation to the capital employed in the tied estate."

It describes as astonishing the commission's statement that the brewers' argument on this score suggests a quite outmoded approach to investment and deployment of funds.

### Credit licence applications rush to beat deadline

By Margaret Stone

Last minute applications for consumer credit licences from companies which actually provide the credit, banks, and retailers which operate their own loan facilities, are pouring into the Office of Fair Trading in an effort to beat the deadline for applications, which expires tonight.

Credit licences are one of the main planks of consumer credit protection embodied in the 1974 Consumer Credit Act. Debt collectors, credit counsellors, debt adjusters and credit reference agencies had to obtain their licences last May.

Once the process of licensing credit companies had been completed then it will be the turn of the credit brokers to apply for licences.

For this second stage the OFT has received 19,000 applications for licences and has so far granted 7,000. Applications reached their peak this week and the OFT believe the number will be slightly lower than expected.

Provided the applications have been received on time the company giving credit can continue to trade as though he were licensed until the time his application is turned down. The Director General of Fair Trading can withhold licences from anyone who he thinks is not a "fit" person. Without a licence a credit trader will be unable to enforce the credit agreement.

### Associated Book heads for peak

Another record year is under way at Associated Book Publishers. The first half has produced a jump in pre-tax profits from £771,000 to £1.1m on turnover of £11.4m against £10.3m. The board expects "the benefits derived from the first half to be maintained and increased marginally by further progress in the second half."

### Turbine generating deal will bring GEC and C A Parsons together Companies to share Drax contract

By Roger Vielvoys  
Energy Correspondent

A complex deal for dividing the £125m contract for turbine generating equipment for the controversial second stage of the Drax coal fired station in Yorkshire between C. A. Parsons and GEC will be announced today by the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB).

The executive committee of the generating authority meets this morning to put the final touches to an announcement which could result in the north-eastern-based subsidiary of the

Reyrol Parsons group acquiring about 80 per cent of the work on the contract.

It is thought that the remaining 20 per cent would be undertaken at GEC's Larne factory in Northern Ireland where the 1,000 strong labour force is fast running out of work.

Although the Larne plant has the capability to build complete turbo-generator sets, it is more likely that the factory will concentrate on the feed heating and ancillary equipment for Drax, leaving the bulk of the order to Parsons.

By splitting the work the

CEGB is encouraging the two turbine generator manufacturers into a closer liaison which could eventually result in the single turbine generator manufacturing company that the CEGB is anxious to see.

A split contract, on a project of this size is a new departure for the CEGB and will require considerable further negotiation before work reaches the factory floor. It seems unlikely that either company could hope to begin any manufacturing before the middle of next year.

Over the past two weeks the CEGB have held talks with officials of the Department of

### Dollar loses ground on exchanges

By Caroline Atkinson

A flurry of activity on the foreign exchanges followed the prediction yesterday by Mr Michael Blumenthal, Secretary of the United States Treasury, that the balance of payments deficit will be as large next year as this.

The dollar lost ground against all major currencies, and its effective depreciation, measured against a basket of currencies, worsened from -0.69 per cent on Wednesday to -0.82 per cent.

The dollar's fall was most marked against the Swiss franc, which closed at 2.3415 to the dollar, and the Japanese yen, which closed 1.55 yen stronger against the dollar at 265.10.

There was a lot of criticism on Wednesday at the International Monetary Fund meeting in Washington of the persistent Japanese trade surplus, and the unwillingness of the Japanese to allow a significant strengthening in the yen.

This led to rumours in the markets of a likely realignment of currencies with a higher yen and a weaker dollar.

The pound also gained strongly against the dollar, reaching its best rate for over a year.

It weakened slightly in the afternoon after the Bank of England had intervened to hold the rate down, and dropped 0.1 on the effective rate index to 62.3.

The closing rate against the dollar was up 5 points on the day at 1.7450.

### Strong US warning to Tokyo on trade surplus

From David Blake  
Washington, Sept 29

Mr Michael Blumenthal, the United States Treasury Secretary, today stepped up the pressure on Japan to do something to reduce its huge surplus on the balance of payments with a warning that unless the Japanese take effective action, protectionist pressures in America and the rest of the world would "justifiably" grow.

Mr Blumenthal's statement is the most severe warning to date to the Japanese that they have emerged at this year's annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund as the prime target for criticism for their role in the world economy.

Pressure from the United States and other countries has been strongly directed towards urging the Japanese to stimulate demand at home and to

### Japanese exports rise by 40pc

From Peter Hazell  
Tokyo, Sept 29

Contradicting assurances to the outside world, Japan's huge surplus in trade is now likely to increase by an even greater margin later this year, the Japan Trade Council suggested today.

It based its suggestions on statistics of 14 major trading companies in August, usually a reliable indicator of future trends, and indicated that the value of export contracts concluded last month registered



Mr Michael Blumenthal: "Results that matter."

the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development put it at around a \$10,000m surplus for this year.

Japan is always willing to take part in discussions, the theory goes, but "it is the results that matter," Mr Blumenthal said.

the highest gain since April this year. At the same time the rate of increase of import contracts in August dropped to the lowest level in 21 months.

The council pointed out that the 14 conglomerates control 60 per cent of Japan's volume of trade.

Their statistics suggested that export contracts for the month rose to £2,286m which was a 40 per cent increase over the figure for the same month last year and a 35 per cent increase in July.

Import contracts dropped to

### Soaring tin price brings Crofty back to the public

All the excitement over North Sea oil has shrouded the achievements of one of Britain's poorest extractive industries.

With the strong rise in the tin price, the Cornish tin industry is alive and—for the most part—doing very well. So well in fact that South Crofty, which has tin mines near Redruth and Camborne, is being floated publicly. (See Financial Editor, page 23.)

The floating of a base metal mine is now such an extraordinary event in Britain that City sages were yesterday scratching their heads trying to remember the last occasion. By common consent Geveer Tin Mines, which also mines in Cornwall, was the last flotation way back in the misty soft time.

In fact, the coming to the market of Crofty is not exactly new—more of a refloat in fact. It first went public in 1906, but 10 years ago the entire company was bought out by St Piran, which was subsequently taken over by St Piran.

Having spent some £41m over the last few years on capital expenditure at Crofty, St Piran has now decided to sell 35 per cent of Crofty back to the public.

On offer are 5,250,000 shares at 50p each, which will raise £2,625,000 for St Piran which intends to use the money for unspecified acquisitions in the mining and house building industries (it already has a successful housebuilding subsidiary).

Profits at Crofty are estimated conservatively at £2m this year, compared with £1.54m pretax last year, although the outlook for the tin price is such that at least £2.5m is likely. The expected dividend gives a yield of 12½ per cent at the issue price.

Britain's tin production is so small that we do not rate a seat on the producers' side of the International Tin Council. Last year we produced 3,300 tonnes, or 25 per cent of our consumption of 13,100 tonnes.

The importance of the industry is not so much in terms of foreign exchange savings, but the strategic implications of not having to rely totally on imports.

Until the sharp increase in the tin price, the Cornish industry was not happy. However, the price has risen from £3,000 a tonne at the beginning of last year to reach a record yesterday of £5,800 on the London Metal Exchange cash quotation.

Desmond Quigley

### Renault for Austria

Regie Nationale des Usines Renault will establish a plant in Austria to produce compressed aluminium motor parts. The plant will go into service some time next year and will be run by a wholly-owned Renault subsidiary. No site has yet been chosen and no financial details are available at present, a Renault spokesman said.

### Brussels critical of whisky group

Brussels, Sept 29.—The European Commission, under pressure from the whisky industry, has requested Arthur Bell and Sons, the whisky manufacturers, to change its sales practices which, the Community's anti-trust officials claim, do not conform with the EEC competition rules.

This marks the third such procedure against a whisky company. Similar communications went out several weeks ago to the Distillers Co, Britain's largest whisky group, and the W. M. Teachers and Sons

### OXLEY PRINTING GROUP LTD

Results for six months to 30th June 1977 with corresponding first half 1976 figures.

- \* TURNOVER INCREASE  
From £7,640,000 to £9,640,000
  - \* PRE-TAX PROFIT INCREASE  
From £31,000 loss to £519,000 profit.
  - \* INTERIM DIVIDEND INCREASE  
From Nil to 1.0725p per share (6.5% gross).
  - \* FUTURE  
Prospects for the second half of 1977 are very encouraging and profits are expected to be greater than in the first half.
- Provided their expectation of profit is fulfilled the Board intends to recommend a maximum permitted final dividend of 8.5% gross making 15% for the year.

### ZAMBIA COPPER INVESTMENTS LIMITED

(Incorporated in Bermuda)

#### NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Notice is hereby given that the eighth annual general meeting of members of Zambia Copper Investments Limited will be held at The Bank of Bermuda, Building, Front Street, Hamilton, Bermuda, at 11.00 on Wednesday, 26th October, 1977, for the following business:

- To receive and consider the statement of accounts and the reports of the directors and of the auditors for the year ended 30th June, 1977.
- To elect directors.
- To fix the remuneration of the auditors and to appoint auditors for the ensuing year.

A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint another member to his proxy to attend and, on a poll, to vote in his stead. By order of the Board

D. Ellis  
Secretary

Registered Office:  
Bathurst Building,  
Pitts Bay Road,  
Pembroke, Bermuda.  
Postal Address:  
P.O. Box 650,  
Hamilton 5,  
Bermuda.  
29th September, 1977

London Office:  
40, Holborn Viaduct,  
London EC1A 3JF

### Daily Times of Nigeria Ltd. NEW LONDON ADDRESS

The Daily Times of Nigeria, London Branch Office, now occupies new and enlarged premises in Central London

New Address:  
Graybourne House  
52-54 Gray's Inn Road  
London WC1X 8LT  
Telephone: 01-242 7922; Telex: 8811470

The Daily Times Group, publishers of Nigeria's leading National newspapers (Daily Times and Sunday Times), also includes weekly newspapers, monthly magazines and the specialist "Business Times"

Other Group activities represented in London are Times Leisure Services (trading and leisure interests), Times Press Limited (commercial printing), Nigerpak Limited (packaging) and Naira Holdings Limited (property).

### Could Fiat Solve your Transport Problems?

We believe that we can, and here are some of the reasons why. We can offer first-class availability with over 500 new cars in stock. Unique 2-year Fiat Mastercover Warranty with 6 months' free maintenance. The most comprehensive range to choose from. Price advantage—at present the rate of exchange between the Lira and Pound is particularly favourable. Outstanding service from one of the best equipped workshops in the country, plus over 380 service dealers in the UK.

Please contact Graham Fenner at Broadford or Barry Unwin at Baker Street to discuss your company's requirements.

### PLAY MOTOR SALES LTD

Great West Road, Brentford, Middx. TW8 9JL Tel: 01-890 4111.  
62-64 Baker Street, London, W1M 1JL Tel: 01-486 7555.

### How the markets moved

# Rises

Anglo Swiss Hedge	42p
Cowie T	3p to 38p
Douglas RM	5p to 210p
EMC	7p to 123p
SA Land	7p to 60p
Sunley B	10p to 193p
Uld City Merc	3p to 30p

Mang Bronze	5p to 48p
Milbury	3p to 70p
Moran	12p to 123p
EMC	7p to 123p
SA Land	7p to 60p
Sunley B	10p to 193p
Uld City Merc	3p to 30p

Bank buys	1.65
Bank sell	1.60
Australia S	30.50
Austria Sch	64.75
Belgium Fr	1.91
Canada \$	11.08
Denmark Kr	7.50
Finland Mk	8.82
France Fr	4.22
Germany DM	65.00
Greece Dr	5.40
Hongkong S	1,575.00
Italy L	490.00
Japan Yn	4.47
Netherlands Gld	9.83
Norway Kr	76.00
Portugal Esc	1.79
Spain Pes	149.75
Sweden Kr	8.71
Switzerland Fr	4.48
US \$	1.79
Yugoslavia Dnr	36.75

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US \$	1.79
Yugoslavia Dnr	36.75

# THE POUND

# Falls

Anglo Am Corp	5p to 200p
Deere & Co	5p to 245p
Estate Dales	5p to 231p
Fusco Min	7p to 128p
Kaiser	5p to 150p
Stewart & Fisher	3p to 85p
Taylor Falls	3p to 35p
W Reed Cons	10p to 145p

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Spain Pes	149.75
Sweden Kr	8.71
Switzerland Fr	4.48
US \$	1.79
Yugoslavia Dnr	36.75

Equities ended lower

Gilt-edged securities rallied.

Dollar premium 88.75 per cent

(effective rate 25.31 per cent).

Sterling rose 5 pips to \$1.7450. The

effective exchange rate index was

at 62.3.

Gold lost \$0.75 an ounce to

\$153.125.

SDR-4 was 1.16166 on Thursday,

while SDR-4 was 0.656708.

Commodities: Reuters' index was

at 150.6 (previous 149.5).

Reports pages 24 & 28

Notes for central depository bank notes

not to supply: 20 pips to 20 pips

Bank intervention: 1/2 Different rates

for travellers' cheques and other

foreign currency business.

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## Italcasse head resigns over charges

From John Earle  
Rome, Sept. 29

Signor Giuseppe Arcaini, who is at the centre of investigations into several financial scandals, has yielded to political pressures and resigned from the position of Director-general of Italcasse, the central institute of Italian savings banks, which he has held for 20 years.

A former Christian Democrat deputy and junior minister, Signor Arcaini, who is 76, is president of Assofinanziaria, the association of Italian banks, from which he is also expected to resign.

All political parties, including his own Christian Democrats, had called for Signor Arcaini's removal after formal notification by a magistrate that charges were being investigated against him in connection with political pay-offs by oil companies and, in another case, irregularities in housing permits.

He has also been criticized for the granting by Italcasse of loans totalling about 247,000m lire (£165m) to the Calzaghe Brothers, three Roman builders.

Italcasse's books have been under inspection by the Bank of Italy. The central bank has also conducted an inspection into alleged irregularities at Banco di Napoli, the main bank in the Mezzogiorno mainland.

The financial daily *Il Sole 24 Ore* today said the inspectors had made severe criticisms after ascertaining a shortfall in revenue of some 40,000m lire. "A sum such as to endanger the bank's profit and loss account".

In another development directed towards the moralization of public life, the chamber has approved a Bill, which now goes to the Senate, laying down that the Government must consult parliament in advance of top-level appointments in public sector corporations and banks.

The Bill stipulates that candidates must present a statement of their personal assets and a copy of their latest tax return. Meanwhile, news from New York that Exxon has signed a consent decree with the Security Exchange Commission regarding political pay-offs in foreign countries, including Italy, has led to a statement from Signor Vincenzo Casu, former Esso Italiana chairman.

He faces Italian charges connected with the distribution of Esso funds in Italy. In his statement he maintains that the pay-offs to political parties are shown by the consent decree to have been made not on his own initiative but on instructions by the parent company itself and with the authorization and the knowledge of its highest executives in New York.

## Leyland bus and truck dispute ends

By R. W. Shakespeare

British Leyland's 9,000 workers at five big bus and truck factories in Lancashire have decided to end their two-week strike and return to work on Monday.

At meetings yesterday the strikers voted overwhelmingly in favour of a recommendation by shopfloor representatives and union officials that the strike be called-off to allow negotiations with the company on a new pay deal to be completed.

The unions have now accepted management proposals that will give all of the

workers in the factories at Leyland and Chorley wage increases within the Government's 10 per cent ceiling guideline, plus an opportunity further to increase their wage packets through a "self-financing productivity scheme".

Some further rationalization of shop-floor wage grades will be involved and the increase will take earnings to £57-£73.25 for a basic 40 hours.

The unions appear at this stage to have abandoned for the time being their demand for a reduction in the working week

Action began on September 19 after negotiations at the Lancashire factories had turned down a management proposal of a 7.6 per cent across-the-board increase plus the additional productivity element. It now seems that the company has made some improvement in this offer.

Last night a Leyland spokesman welcomed the return to work decision. He said it would bring confidence to both Leyland and the National Enterprise Board in planning further financial investment at the Leyland and Chorley plants.

## Robb Caledon's £5m order saves laying-off workers

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Correspondent

The threat of redundancies among 1,000 workers at the shipbuilding group of Robb Caledon later this year has been averted by a £5m contract placed with the company.

Against strong competition from Germany and Japan in particular, the company has secured a contract from Associated Portland Cement for a 4,350 tons deadweight self-unloading bulk cement carrier.

The contract was vital to avert the threat of redundancies at the Dundee yard as a result of a dwindling order book.

It will provide a sufficient volume of work for the yard's labour force well into next year when the ship is due to be delivered.

Shoreward of orders has already forced the company to reduce its labour force at its Leith yard, but like other shipbuilders, Robb Caledon hopes

it will gain some orders from the Anglo-Polish package. Talks on the 26 vessel deal worth £130m are expected to be resumed next week, although there is increasing speculation that Britain may fail to secure all the ships which Poland wants to build.

Robb Caledon's success in gaining the APC contract was influenced by the fact that the company has previously built three smaller but similar ships for the group.

The new ships will be operated in the New Zealand coastal trade by the Golden Bay Cement company, an associate company of APC.

What particularly pleased Robb Caledon's negotiators was the fact that the United Kingdom price was very close to the quotations received from Japanese companies who have been involved in aggressive marketing efforts to secure new orders.

## Steps taken to harmonize non-life insurance industry

By Margaret Stone

A further step towards harmonization of the non-life insurance industry in the European Community was taken yesterday with the publication of regulations governing the classification of risks and solvency margins of United Kingdom general insurers.

The regulations, which come into effect next year, bring the United Kingdom industry into line with the EEC's non-life insurance Establishment Directive, the first major step towards a European common market in insurance.

British insurers have been expecting the regulations for several years. Both the industry and Department of Trade will undoubtedly have to adapt procedures to cope with the different systems and returns the regulations impose.

The present six United Kingdom classes of business — the statistical framework by which the industry breaks down its business — will be expanded to 17. This is basically to accommodate the differing practice of insurance industries of all the member companies. The Germans, for example, list insurance against legal expenses, whereas few British insurers write this class of business.

British companies will have to maintain a margin of solvency and a minimum guarantee fund, which will be based on the higher of two sums calculated by reference to either their premium income or claims record.

However, existing small companies which have been trading soundly for years will be exempt from these provisions and others allowed a period of grace before meeting the requirements in full.

## Fife yard reopens in Texaco deal

Redpath Dorman Long, the Methil, Fife, oil production building subsidiary of the British Steel Corporation, is to form a joint venture with UIE, of Cherbourg, to build a £24m steel jacket for Texaco's Tartan oilfield in the North Sea.

Work on the project will be divided almost equally between the two companies and will enable RDL to reopen its Methil construction yard and reemploy about 550 of the 1,100 workers made redundant as North Sea platform orders ran out.

Texaco had planned to place the entire order with UIE, who submitted the lowest tender. But after intervention by the Department of Energy and the Offshore Supplies Office, the United States-based oil company was persuaded to give the British yard a large proportion of the work.

Texaco also announced yesterday that British companies would get orders for six of the 10 modules that will be placed on the jacket and deck structure. Burntisland Engineering Fabricators, only a few miles from Methil, is to build two drilling and two processing modules and Texaco has a short list of other British module builders for the remaining two.

### In brief

A Dutch company, Penn and Bauduin, is to build the other four modules.

Total cost of the platform is expected to be around £70m and together with equipment already ordered British companies will acquire about 65 per cent of the value of the work.

### Two-month strike ends

Nine hundred workers at the Cheltenham-based Smith's Industries will return to work today after a two months strike over a pay claim. A spokesman for the company, which makes aviation spares, said that it had lost one-third of its annual turnover. The settlement was reached inside the bounds of phase two.

### Sugar plant hold up

A pay dispute may prevent the operation of five sugar beet factories on Monday. More than 1,000 workers have imposed a strict 40-hour week. The factories, among 17 owned by the

British Sugar Corporation, are at Peterborough, King's Lynn, Wasington in Suffolk, Allcott in Shropshire, and York.

The corporation said growers in the areas affected have been told that no consignments of sugar beet would be accepted for the time being.

### IMF and Italy

The International Monetary Fund has acceded to an Italian request to ease IMF-imposed restrictions on government spending in 1978. Signor Gaetano Stannatti, Italian Treasury Minister, told parliamentary leaders yesterday. The Italian Treasury will be allowed to place interest paid on foreign debts outside the normal 1978 budget.

### Narodny Bank claim

Commodity Electronics of Ladbrooke Grove, London, went into voluntary liquidation yesterday owing £2.4m. The Moscow Narodny Bank, which is owed £1m, is the biggest creditor. Its claim to hold securities on the assets, worth £1.5m, is to be contested, said Mr Leonard Curtis, a chartered accountant and one of the nominated joint liquidators.

## CBI chief attacks legislative barriers to jobs

Recent laws in the employment field were deterring employers from taking on additional labour, Mr John Methven, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, said yesterday.

The Government should look closely at the negative effect of its legislation and directives on jobs, he told a local government conference at Bourne-mouth. "There can be little doubt that recent laws in the employment field have created a barrier, not least a psychological one, that deters employers from taking on additional labour. Again and again I hear that the Employment Protection Act is discouraging employers from taking on more people."

Housing policy, too, could be a major barrier to increasing the mobility of labour.

Mr Methven also called for a closer understanding and cooperation with local authorities in attracting industry. "In many areas great efforts have been made to entice in industrial development... but there must be increasing emphasis on the smaller enterprise

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Taking account of home loan customers' needs

From Mr J. F. Workman

Sir, Mr Griggs of the Building Societies Association (September 27) has done a service to the critics of the mortgage by representing by expressing attitudes which perhaps account for the indifference to customer needs sometimes shown by his members.

He says borrowers "should be able to check the interest relief" and human errors "can and should be easily rectified".

No mention of who is responsible for spotting the errors, nor of the difficulty even a competent mathematician might find in working on the scanty data the lender provides. For example, given that interest is usually debited at the beginning of each year rather than at shorter intervals on the declining balance, how are interest rate changes during the year actually applied to the debt?

As for claiming tax relief, if Mr Griggs thinks that it is too much to expect every borrower to himself claim tax relief, I doubt whether he has a 91 per cent mortgage! The Revenue quite clearly places responsibility on the taxpayer to ensure that he does not over-pay tax, and Building Societies should provide the information to allow him to do that.

One last point—Building Society operations are so closely linked to the Revenue that one wonders why they do not align their financial years with the tax year. Surely

this would reduce administrative costs.

Yours faithfully,  
J. F. WORKMAN,  
45 Lower Road,  
Great Ansell, Ware,  
Hertfordshire,  
September 28.

From Mr J. H. Sand  
Sir, Mr N. E. Griggs's bland defence of present home loans taxation arrangements (September 27) should not be skewed the last word.

As a borrower from one of the largest societies I received in June, 1976 an assessment showing a figure of 1975-76 interest which was obviously too low. The society's local office gave me a higher figure over the telephone, which I reported to the inspector when sending in my appeal a day or two later. In March, 1977, the inspector wrote: "As soon as I receive details of interest paid in the year to April 5, 1976, I will amend the assessment"; even then it took until May 10 for him to produce the amendment, showing the figure the society had given me nearly 11 months previously.

This is fairly typical of what takes place each year, between me, my society and my inspector, and makes me wonder how much experience Mr Griggs has as a borrower.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN SAND,  
19 Brett House,  
Putney Heath Lane,  
London SW15 3JE,  
September 28.

### De-rating in inner city areas

From Mr John Hatherley  
Sir, Mr Roland Freeman has the wrong end of the stick altogether, by advocating de-rating of inner city areas (Business News, September 29). A likely result of a step so erroneous in principle would be an increase in the price of land by at least the capitalized value of the rates removed.

Let us look elsewhere for a solution. Recently across the Key Bridge from Washington, DC, United States was in 1950 still a shambles left by what had been a red light district. Then the Arlington County assessors made an amendment to the rating system. Now Rosslyn is more intensively developed than any other area in the District of Columbia.

In 1960, Southfield, where three main highways converge near the famous Northfield Shopping Centre on the edge of Detroit, had just needed a federal depressed-area subsidy to help pay for its new city hall. The new mayor ordered a change in the rating system. Almost overnight, Southfield became the most booming city

in Michigan, and within 10 years had more office development than Detroit which is 20 times as large.

Many years ago, the Danes changed their rating system, and cleared the slums of Copenhagen in eight years.

What was the secret? Churchill pointed out 70 years ago that our rating system is "obnoxious" (his word) because it taxes buildings. He said that land should be rated. Apart from the cities, I mentioned, that adopted this method, let Mr Freeman look around the world at the now growing number of cities using primarily a land tax (starting, if he likes, with Wellington, New Zealand, and Sydney) and compare their thriving inner centres with those of cities that do not, such as New York and London.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN HATHERLEY,  
Carshalton and Wallington Liberal Association,  
16 Brighton Road,  
Coulson,  
Surrey,  
September 27.

### Implications of a Severn barrage

From Mr F. E. Osborne

Sir, Dr Morris's letter (September 28) makes a number of points which this organization has been asking the Government to investigate over a period of years. A Severn barrage would have important environmental implications, and these do need to be studied fully before any further commitment is made.

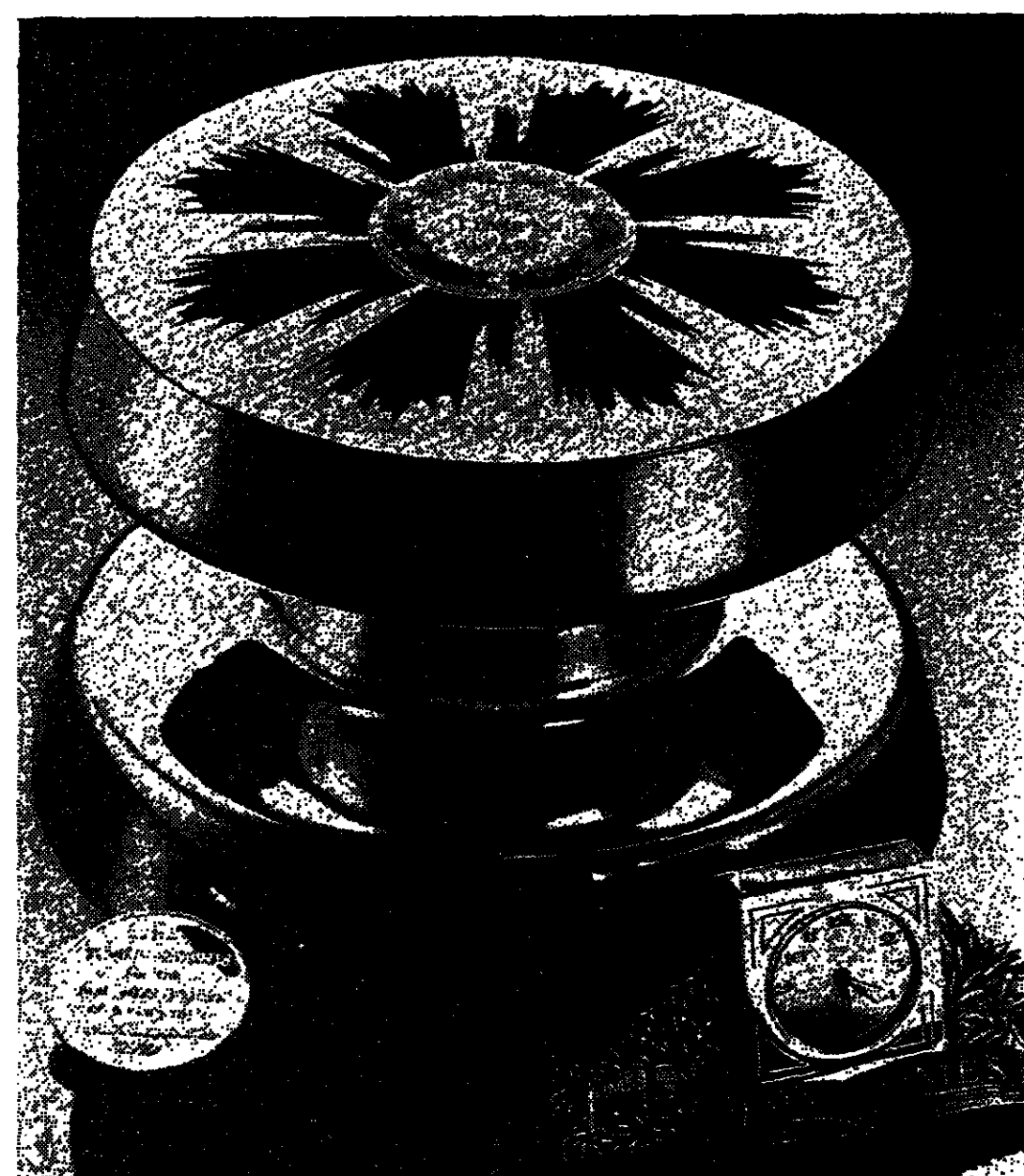
I cannot, however, share Dr Morris's view that the power contributed by a barrage would only represent a marginal benefit. Current estimates suggest that 10 per cent of the United Kingdom's present annual requirement for electricity could be produced by a suitable barrage, for an initial outlay comparable with that required for the same capacity obtained from nuclear stations, with longer life and lower maintenance costs.

A barrage or any similar alternative scheme would indeed be a major man-made alteration in the environment, but I would suggest that as a psychologist Dr Morris should be even more concerned about the broader effect on our population of knowing that by relying on the nuclear proposal we shall be committed to stockpiling additional tons of deadly nuclear waste over a period rather longer than recorded history to date.

Those of us who believe in the potential of the Severn estuary without being committed to any particular scheme, feel that it is at least worth while spending money to see whether an outcome could not be achieved which would give substantial electric power and positive environmental benefits — control of the Severn bore, land reclamation, and so on — without incurring unacceptable damage to the environment.

We do not share Dr Morris's view that the existence of vested interests itself disqualifies the inherent merits either of an estuary scheme or, for that matter, of the nuclear power proposals; given the scale of both, it would be alarming if there were not. Nor could we agree that enthusiasm should be replaced by realism. We believe there is scope for the two to go hand in hand.

Yours faithfully,  
F. E. OSBORNE,  
Secretary  
The Cardiff Chamber of Commerce and Industry,  
101-108 The Exchange,  
Mount Stuart Square,  
Cardiff CF1 6RD,  
September 28.



# THE TIMES AWARDS FOR THE BEST ADVERTISEMENT OF A COMPANY'S RESULTS FOR 1977.

### The Awards

The awards will follow the 1976 pattern, namely

- The Grand Prix, to be held for one year, awarded to the entrant whose advertisement is, in the opinion of the judges, the best submitted, irrespective of category. The Grand Prix consists of a silver trophy, specially designed for The Times by Gordon Hodgson.
- First, second and third prizes for category winners. Awards will be made both to the winning advertiser and agent.

### The Panel of Judges

The Awards will be made by an independent panel of judges, selected for their understanding of this specialised form of communication.

They will judge entries in accordance with the following criteria. An advertisement of a company's results, whether the Chairman's statement is or is not included in full or in abridged form, should:

- Attract the eye, by virtue of its design.
- Be easy to read, by the use of skilful typography.
- Contain such information as prospective investors or professional advisers are likely to require, including details of the business carried on by the company.
- Include, at the option of the advertiser, such illustrations, graphs, or diagrams as may be necessary to supplement (c) above.
- Leave the reader with the impression that the company concerned would be a good one to do business with, to work for, or to invest in.

Note: In the case of the categories 'Interim Results' or 'Preliminary Figures', only criteria (a) to (d) will apply.

### Conditions of Entry

All entries are free, but must have appeared in the pages of The Times Business News during 1977.

The following are the categories in which awards will be made:

- Annual Results.
  - Colour or Black and White. Half page or larger, or equivalent.
  - Colour or Black and White. Less than half page or equivalent.
- Interim Results or Preliminary Figures. Colour or Black and White (All sizes).

The Judges will have the option of making, at their absolute discretion, special awards for the following:

- \*The best advertisement by an overseas company.
- \*The best advertisement smaller than 20cms x 4 cols.
- \*The advertisement which makes the most significant contribution to new and imaginative thinking in financial advertising (without necessarily satisfying all the criteria for the Grand Prix or Category Winners.)

Entries will be accepted throughout the twelve month period January 1st-December 31st 1977, and should take the form of art pulls mounted on board, with a clear indication of the category in which they are to be judged. Six unmounted art pulls should also be provided for the use of the Award Judges. They should be sent to:

Michael Mander, Deputy Chief Executive and Marketing Director,  
The Times Awards,  
The Times, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road,  
London WC1X 8EZ. Tel: 01-837 1234.

Presentation of the awards will be made early in 1978.

**THE TIMES**  
BUSINESS NEWS

هنا من الأمل



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Long gilts: to tap or not to tap

The Bank of England reinforced its signal on short-term interest rate stability yesterday by once again forcing the discount houses to borrow at MLR for seven days. If that fails to produce the numbers the authorities are looking for at today's Treasury Bill tender, it looks very much as if suspension of the MLR formula would be considered.

Of rather more interest to markets today, however, will be the Bank's attitude to the long end of the gilt market, particularly after the further weakening of the dollar yesterday. Will there or will there not be a new long dated stock issue? On the one hand, the authorities should be happy to see long rates driven down further and will doubtless be afraid of risking the pointless exercise of a foreign dominated sell-out. On the other hand, they may be playing guessing games as to the appropriate long-term yield level that will produce the stability needed for smooth medium-term management of the market.

### Ready Mixed Concrete

#### Out of the recession

Hard on the heels of Barratt Developments report of a pickup in housing activity, Ready Mixed Concrete says the decline in United Kingdom output is levelling out. With Wimpey also saying yesterday that its order rate has ceased to decline, the construction and building sector can take some heart from this week's news.

Ready Mixed's interim figures show a 20 per cent profit improvement to £12m pretax with £8.9m coming from the home market against £7.5m last time at the operating level in spite of a 10 per cent fall in domestic volume. Moreover, there have apparently been no adverse effects since it abandoned pricing agreements.

Meanwhile, Mr. Healey's hints of autumn stimulation for the economy is obviously encouraging for next year. Ready Mixed for one expects the volume graph to continue upwards.

But prospects are more uncertain for West German operations where profits fell and volume declined. But profits should be maintained for the full year at around

£7.9m, and there is more intrinsic strength than at home.

With other areas doing reasonably well this points to group profits for the year up to £28m against £22.9m. This will be combined with a markedly stronger balance sheet with the help of the new terms being offered to holders of the convertible stock. If this encourages full conversion by the end of the year net borrowings will be about £30m, half net tangible assets.

Short-term borrowings at home will be eliminated so the company seems set to come strongly out of the recession. Moreover, acquisitions must be a possibility: abroad in the concrete business and at home into other sectors.

So the shares at 123p have attractions, even after yesterday's 7p rise, with a prospective yield of 7 per cent and p/e ratio of below 7.

At the other end of the market spectrum stages should be out in force for the refloating of South Croft, a Cornish tin mine. A profit estimate of £2m pretax seems conservative, and the prospective yield of 12.5 per cent is generous. So there is something left with the issue price pitched at 50p.

However, in the absence of any positive indications from the company (and promises of reinvestment elsewhere are hardly enough) existing St Piran shareholders may not be so happy.

Last year Croft contributed 86 per cent of St Piran's after tax profits, a proportion that would have risen this year given the rise in the tin price. Adjusted for the 35 per cent float off of Croft, St Piran's earnings per share last year fell by 30 per cent, altering the historic p/e ratio on yesterday's unchanged 84p a share from 10.2 to 14.6.

St Piran shareholders are offered no preferential treatment in applying for the Croft shares, which seems unduly hard (employee preference could have been cut back or scrapped to accommodate such a preference) and the St Piran argument that shareholders will still have 65 per cent of Croft is totally superfluous.

There seems little St Piran shareholders can do—it takes three weeks to requisition an EGM and the offer closes next Wednesday. But after its recent strength—14p up this week—St Piran's share price may suffer. Croft is now the share to buy if you can get in on the ground floor.

## The battle over Rule 390

More than a month after it finished hearing evidence, the United States Securities Exchange Commission, has still to give an official indication of its final word on off-floor trading, most significantly the New York Stock Exchange's Rule 390.

Under the existing schedule, Rule 390 will be repealed on January 1 and with it—if the great weight of evidence is to be believed—the death knell will be sounded for the traditional auction market system in the United States.

The rule dictates simply that any deal in a listed security must be executed on the trading floor of the NYSE and as a result the NYSE, the American Stock Exchange and stock markets in other American centres have enjoyed a quasi-monopoly in share trading.

Acting under Congressional mandate to create a national and freely competitive market, the SEC understandably sees the repeal of the current restrictions as a crucial step in ending a monopoly situation.

In that view however it seems to stand virtually alone. At the forefront of the campaign against repeal is the United States brokerage community, already reeling under the effects of the ending of fixed commissions two years ago.

Having seen 150 of their number merge or go under seemingly as a direct result of increased rate competition most brokers see the repeal as simply playing into the hands of their better-heeled rivals.

Without "off-board" rules, securities firms will be able to match orders in their offices or act as dealers, buying from and selling to customers from their own inventories, as they do now for over-the-counter stocks.

Corporate chiefs, institutions, and investment clubs have swung their support behind NYSE chairman, Mr. William Bennett, in his fight against the SEC's plan.

They see that the effect will be to create

a situation where investors increasingly find that they have to transact business in listed stocks directly with dealers without any certainty that he is getting the best price available.

A further and perhaps even more important problem concerns the potential conflict of interest in a firm acting both as broker and dealer.

In response to the SEC plan the NYSE only too aware of its special interest has asked only that the SEC stay its hand on the repeal until its own plans for a new National Market System can go ahead.



Mr. William Bennett, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange.

Under this competing qualified market-makers in competing centres—initially existing Exchanges and the National Association of Securities Dealers—would be electronically linked thus providing open access among all markets for listed securities.

Whatever the SEC's final decision the ramifications can be expected to be felt far outside the United States Securities markets—as no doubt the Stock Exchange here is fully aware given that the Office of Fair Trading seems to be hot on the heels of the SEC with regard to fixed commissions.

## How dial-a-fact is coming closer to home

Kenneth Owen  
Technology  
Correspondent

One of the Post Office's technological babies is showing surprisingly rapid and healthy growth. The Viewdata concept—linking television set and telephone to provide dialled information services—is out of the laboratory and is being taken very seriously by leading organisations in the information services field.

Next June a market trial involving 1,000 Viewdata-adapted sets will begin in London, Birmingham and Norwich.

From the general idea that a range of directories and other information sources might be made available via television screens in the home and in business the project has moved forward into firm proposals for specific services. A phased development is planned and approximate costs to the users (at each end of the information chain) are now known.

Details of progress to date emerged yesterday at a Viewdata conference in London organised by the Butler Cox consultancy in association with the Post Office. So far the corporation has invested about £5m to reach the stage of next year's market trial and about 100 information-providing organisations have already been involved in pilot trials.

For the viewer the Viewdata "pages" displayed on his or her television screen will resemble the broadcast television information services (the BBC's Ceefax and the IBA's Oracle) which are now accessible to those with appropriately adapted receivers. But a prime difference is that a much larger range of information, covering many subjects and intended for many different "readerships", will be stored in the Post Office's Viewdata computer near Ipswich and will be available for transmission when dialled up (via a calculator-like keypad—not the telephone dial—to be precise).

The Post Office will provide the medium, but not the message—it holds the information and communicates it to the tele-

phone subscriber. It is the outside information-providing organisations (such as publishers, consumer organisations, travel and transport organisations, financial and business information services) which are responsible for the content.

Whatever the subject, the normal method of use will be the same: the user will be presented with a basic guide or directory to the contents of the selected "magazine" and will progressively "narrow down" via subsequent pages to the information he needs.

He will normally pay the cost of a local telephone call for the time he is connected, plus a special Viewdata charge in the information provider. There would also, of course, be the price or rental of the Viewdata-adapted television set.

To begin with, these sets are expected to sell for about £500, but it is thought that the price will drop markedly with advances in microelectronics and mass production.

By adding a coded "password" to the system, information can be supplied to particular groups of people. Agricultural Co-operation and Marketing Services, for example, using the trial Viewdata service to provide confidential market intelligence to its members.

As well as straightforward information retrieval, Viewdata can be used for computing calculations as an alternative to conventional timesharing computing services. A full alphanumeric keyboard (under development) will be needed for this.

Even without a full keyboard, Viewdata could be used to pass certain messages from one telephone subscriber to another. The popular example for which the Post Office clearly expects a big demand is of the "Delayed at office. Shall be on train arriving at..." type.

Another planned service would include complete transactions. A user might call up a British Airways timetable, make a reservation and pay by quilling his credit card number. As well as the 100 organisations who have been involved in providing Viewdata information in the pilot trials so far, another 50 are actively interested. Post Office speakers disclosed the total were interested mainly in the residential market and the remaining 50 in specialised services for business use.

Ten thousand frames of information are, at the moment, being increased to more than 100,000 by the start of the market trial next June. The corporation already has firm orders for 25,000 frames and is confident of filling 100,000 by Christmas.

The information providers will each pay a £250 service charge to the Post Office, plus a fee of £1 per frame per year (for a minimum of 100 frames). The insertion and editing of data can be done in three ways: by renting an editing board terminal from the Post Office at £250 a year; using the same type of terminal on Post Office premises at no charge; or using an in-house computer and passing the magnetic tape to the corporation, again at no charge.

The information providers would also bear the cost of updating the information, obtaining the information and promoting the service. On the revenue side, the charge to the domestic or business user will vary according to the particular Viewdata service. The Post Office suggests an average of 0.2p to 0.4p per frame (the charge will be based

on the number of frames called up and not based on time), but the information providers have the option to increase or decrease this as they wish.

What has emerged is a likely price band from nothing (for classified advertisements and certain other services) to 2p per frame. To attract domestic users the price for the domestic services will have to be low while the upper levels will apply more to the specialised business information services.

Providers of restricted access services will also receive revenue from membership subscriptions.

Among the systems developed during the pilot trial, Extel has aimed at extending its traditional specialist information services for the City of London to the broader business market.

St James Press has developed a user-group service of travel-trade information and J. R. Adams & Associates are planning to provide information for

advertising agencies, marketing companies and investment advisers.

Clearly, immense new possibilities are opening up in the field of immediate-access information services. As well as genuine Viewdata-type services, a range of television "add-on" devices will bring new options (a cassette-based system was announced earlier this week) to the home and the office.

At the moment the domestic and business markets are developing together. Soon they may diverge to meet different needs. Viewdata may become one element of a "unit video" concept analogous to unit audio in the home. In business use the possibilities appear virtually unlimited.

Finally, a random thought for parents of daughters who appear to spend ages on the telephone conversing with boyfriends. Be warned: before too long, they could be calling each other up and playing chess on the Viewdataphone.

Peter Norman

## Economic worries add to the problems of the Dutch

For more than four months the Dutch have been wallowing in a political crisis. Since the general election in May government in The Hague has been in the hands of a caretaker administration as politicians and parties have wrangled first about the next government's programme and, so far without result, over the composition of the new cabinet.

But it has begun to look over the past fortnight as if The Netherlands is also heading for an economic crisis. Where there was uncertainty about the economy, there is now pessimism.

Mr. Wim Duisenberg, the acting finance minister, has forecast that unemployment will rise to an average of 240,000 in 1978 from about 210,000 this year, greatly overshooting the original target for 1978 of 185,000.

The official unemployment figure has begun to move strongly upwards. The number given as of work has increased by a tenth since the middle of this year to about 220,000 and is expected to reach a quarter of a million by the end of this year, making Mr. Duisenberg's forecast look rather optimistic.

Perhaps more disturbing for the economic planners in The Hague have been figures suggesting that the volume of Dutch exports will fall this year, as they did in the recession year of 1975.

In the European Community, The Netherlands' economy has

an export dependency second only to that of Luxembourg. More than 30 per cent of gross national product is exported.

Whereas the government originally envisaged a 10 per cent rise in export volume in 1977, the figures for the first half showed no real increase compared with 1976.

In response, the Dutch central planning office revised its original growth forecast for this year downwards to nil, but this target must be in doubt after the July figures, which showed a fall in exports in value terms of about 300m guilders (about £70m) to 7,844m (£1,820m) compared with July last year.

In consequence a new package of measures to stimulate the economy is expected by the middle of October whether there is a new cabinet or not. Mr. Joop den Uyl, the prime minister, has suggested that 3,000m guilders should be lopped off taxes and social security contributions next year.

Officials at the Hague finance ministry think that 2,000m to 2,500m guilders is a more likely figure, taking the form of a cut in personal taxation or social security payments or a combination of the two.

The underlying assumption is that the trade unions and employers in The Netherlands will then agree to a form of social contract, which will result in the average worker forgoing a real wage increase next year in return for a reduction in taxes drawn from this year's slump in exports is that Dutch industry has become increasingly uncompetitive in world markets,

partly because of the high cost of labour.

The fact that Mr. Den Uyl, in his capacity as caretaker prime minister, is contemplating taking action over the economy is an indication of the gravity of the latest developments in the export and labour markets.

Viewed positively, The Netherlands has a large balance of payments surplus because of its exports of natural gas. In the past year or so the Dutch authorities have also made progress in bringing down the rate of wage increases and inflation.

The political wrangling of the past half year might also have given the impression that economic policy makers in The Hague and Amsterdam had all the time in the world to formulate and execute their decisions.

In fact, the reverse was true. The political vacuum and economic setbacks of this year have come at a time when a finely tuned medium-term economic strategy to restore full employment by 1980 should have been getting into its stride. Towards the end of 1975 the government of Mr. den Uyl decided that the economy would have to begin an adjustment to a era of slower economic growth.

If unemployment were to be brought down to an "acceptable" level of 150,000 by the end of this decade the claims of the public sector on the national income would have to be curbed and profits would have to rise.

Alongside wage restraint key points of the policy were a slow-down in the growth of the burden of social charges and taxation to 1 per cent per year from the previous rate of about 1.65 per cent and the establishment of an investment fund to subsidise private investment with a system of variable premiums.

The so-called "1 per cent policy" by limiting the growth of the collective take in net national income, was designed to create an atmosphere in which business confidence would be strengthened and investment would rise.

The investment fund, through which the government intended to make available 13,400m guilders for industry from 1977 would be designed to channel growth into selected areas by offering additional premiums for investment according to its type, location and effect on employment.

The 1 per cent rule has been

applied this year, but the investment fund fell by the wayside when Mr. den Uyl's government collapsed in the spring shortly before the general election. Although there was much scepticism about the structural economic policy of the previous den Uyl government, it did nevertheless form part of an overall concept of government action to restore full employment.

The Dutch Government is under pressure, of time, as a large rise in the country's labour force is expected from 1980 onwards. The medium-term policy was designed to restore full employment before facing up to this new challenge. Events in 1977 have turned the policy into a hitch-patched of measures to which a short-term economic simulation programme will no doubt shortly be added.

Twelve months ago, the authors of The Netherlands budget memorandum for this year wrote that 1977 would be the yardstick against which the success of the medium-term policy would be measured. If The Netherlands is to return to full employment by the end of this decade, this is one prophecy that had better not come true.

## Business Diary: Cuckney ahoy • Bywater is back

Lord Aldington leaves the Port of London after six and a half years today and the new chairman, John Cuckney, takes over on Monday in a changeover awaited by management and staff with keen, if wary, interest.

The two men could hardly be more different, apart from a common background in banking and finance. Aldington is the bluff extrovert—forceful, voluble and warm. Cuckney is more introvert—elegant, intellectual and cool. Both can be tough—as, indeed, the job requires.

Things are a lot better at the PLA now than they were two or three years ago. There was a £6.7m improvement last year from a loss of £8.4m in 1975 to one of £1.7m.

Trade this year is about 4 per cent up, thanks to aggressive marketing and a more commercial approach, and last year's financial improvement should be at least maintained.

Yet serious problems remain, the most obvious being a surplus of dockers still running at 600 to 700, of whom about 500 are either too old or unfit. An average age of about 45 is too high for the active life of a docker, and, along with shedding more existing staff, Cuckney will need to start recruiting and training London's labour force of the future.

Less obvious, but equally important, is the need to continue the transformation begun under Aldington of the Port of London from an "authority" to a commercial and operating concern—a transformation as



John Cuckney

much psychological as organisational.

After a remarkable career in both public and private sectors as banker, industrialist (he was chairman of Mersey Docks from 1970-72) and civil servant, Cuckney certainly has the right sort of background for the task.

At the weekend he flies back from Washington where he has been attending the IMF talks wearing his Crown Agents' hat (he is chairman, a job he retains).

Mr. Jim Bywater, the former chairman of the Sime Darby trading company, is in Britain and it rather looks as if he will be returning to his old speciality, engineering.

Bywater has been chief executive for two and a half years and chairman for one year when he left the Sime Darby board at the end of last year after a boardroom tussle won by the Malaysian Government-controlled Pemas Securities.

He then repaired to his holiday villa near Mythen in the Turkish sector of Cyprus, mercifully untouched during the invasion of 1974.

His visit to Britain has partly to do with the annual reunion of Ford scholarship students in London tomorrow and is partly to discuss job possibilities. Bywater told Business Diary yesterday that he is having talks about one or two chairmanships that are likely to become vacant, as well as a chief executiveship, all something to do with engineering.

He was with Ford for 25 years, becoming both director of Ford UK and second-in-command of the worldwide tractor division.

He has also called on another ex-Sime alumnus, Keith Bright, who left two months after Bywater and is now chief executive of Allied Biscuits.



Jim Bywater

The National Campaign for Firework Reform and the Firework Manufacturers' Guild are

locking horns in their annual battle over how many children could be injured this November and why.

The manufacturers are positively intransigent about the bland assertion of the reform campaign's director, Noel Tobin, that nine tenths of the fireworks sold here are imported from the Republic of China. This, Tobin says, is a cunning way round the manufacturers' voluntary undertaking to the Government to cut the output of bangers by half.

"This is a myth that must be exploded," a manufacturers' spokesman actually said, flaring up like one of his own pyrotechnical devices.

In fact, only one British manufacturer, Brock's, is said to be importing Chinese fireworks this year. They will represent three fifths of that company's sales, but are sold in boxed collections with special instructions and include no bangers at all.

Even in 1975, when Benwell also imported from China, the Chinese probably accounted for no more than a fifth of sales.

Arthur Reed, managing director of Brock's, says that his firm has honoured the manufacturers' undertaking to the Government: "We have given up the manufacture and sale of bangers completely and we used to make 12 million a year."

"We gave up for economic reasons. Like all fireworks they have to be packed by hand, but people just do not want to pay that much for a bang."

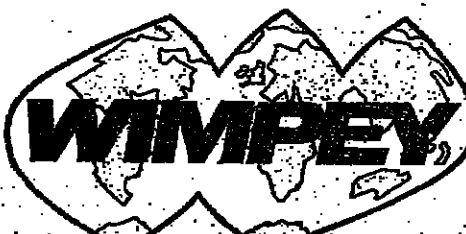
One effect of last week's sharp rise in the share price of the electrical switchgear group Dorman Smith was that the chairman, Geoffrey Atherton, missed playing in the company's annual golf tournament yesterday.

To prevent further speculation in the shares the company, obliged to make an announcement that it was having bid talks and, as Geoffrey Atherton told us, having since made an announcement the company wanted to conclude the talks as soon as possible to reduce uncertainty.

Unfortunately, the result was that the bidder, BICC, was ready to announce its success on the day of the annual golf match and Atherton, whose family has been involved with the group since 1926, had to man the phone in a Southport hotel while his colleagues fought for the prize he last won 14 years ago.

His handicap is 12—an "indifferent golfer," he said—but at 48 he plans to take an extended holiday, which if the golf tradition continues under new ownership could bring him back as a guest winner next year.

I wonder how long it took the Irving Trust Company of New York to come up with the title "Security for WorldWide Interbank Financial Telecommunication" for its computerized communications network, which began operation between Europe and North America this week. The acronym—get it?—is SWIFT. Let's hope it is.



## Interim Statement

	6 months to 30.6.77	6 months to 30.6.76 (see note)	Year 1976
	£m	£m	£m
Operating Profit (including share of Associates' results)	19.0	14.7	43.0
Interest payable (net)	1.5	-	-
Interest receivable (net)	-	1.3	1.5
Profit before Taxation	17.5	16.0	44.5
Taxation	8.3	8.3	24.4
Profit after Taxation	8.7	7.8	20.1
Minority interests	0.3	0.3	0.7
Net Profit after Taxation attributable to the Group	8.4	7.5	19.4

NOTE: The results for the half-year to 30 June 1976 are not strictly comparable with those for the first half of 1977 as the former do not reflect the later change of accounting procedure under Statement of Standard Accounting Practice No. 9.

Mr. R. B. Smith, The Chairman, states:

"The value of work carried out during the half-year at £338m was 14% up on the corresponding period of 1976.

Although the United Kingdom construction market is still depressed, the orders have ceased to decline in the last few months, though at the expense of profit margins.

The maintenance of an active home market is vital, not only in itself, but as a base for continued expansion overseas. Sales of private houses are

proceeding satisfactorily.

The effect of the employment of funds in property acquisitions and development, many of which have not reached the income-producing stage, is reflected in the change in interest receivable and payable."

George Wimpey & Co. Limited,  
Hammersmith Grove  
London W6 7EN.



## Scottish Development Agency has invested £11m in 29 firms

By Ronald Faux  
A year ago the Scottish Development Agency made its first major equity investment in Ranco Motors. Since then, 29 Scottish firms, many engaged in high technology from laser manufacturers to sea food processors, have received film of direct investment by the agency. This was disclosed yesterday by Sir William Gray, the chairman when the SDA introduced some of its successes at a press conference in Edinburgh.

Since that first announcement, the agency finds itself the owner of the larger part of one baboon used for medical research by the Inveresk Research Institute of Musselburgh, in which the agency has a 45.000 stake, and a substantial interest in numerous other enterprises which reported they were doing well in home and export markets.

In some cases, it was claimed, purely Scottish firms had taken off from an original American base, and were competing healthily with American products. Financial help has been provided in loans, equity guaran-

### £1m aid for five Welsh companies

By Patricia Tisdall  
Investments amounting to nearly £1m for five companies were announced by the Welsh

Development Agency yesterday. Organizations receiving backing by the agency include Delyn, a packaging group based in South Wales, with a share and loan deal involving an investment of £298,000.

The WDA also announced its biggest investment so far in North Wales with £250,000 for Ecco Jewellery, of Rhinib, the agency is putting £100,000 into John Williams and Co (Cwmwlfa) and Rock Products (Kidwell), two companies in a West Wales quarry group.

In addition it is leading £50,000 to Four T Engineering water filter manufacturers of Llanelli, and £30,000 to Eurotec Precision, a Wrexham engineering concern.

Other investments include £210,000 in a new company, H. G. Tubes, being formed by a consortium of British, Arab and American businessmen to restart a Llanelli tube-making business.

Further investments totalling more than £10m are under consideration by the WDA.

Mr Ian Gray, managing director of the agency, said: "Our investment activities are now taking off in a big way."

## Unilever chief criticizes cuts in road maintenance

By Michael Bailey

More investment in transport is vital to achieve economic growth, Sir David Orr, chairman of Unilever, said yesterday.

Addressing the Freight Transport Association in Eastbourne he called on manufacturing industry, national and international, to "speak up more forcibly on the crucial role transport plays in its progress."

Sir David criticized the Government for giving industrial strategy top priority and, at the same time, imposing "savage" cuts on road investment and maintenance.

One day's delay in Unilever's world operations required £16m extra stock, Sir David said, or £4m a day for the United Kingdom alone. "It is a sort of funding is needed for just one company, think what the cost must be in national terms. We just cannot afford to have lorries sitting trapped in traffic snarl-ups caused by inadequate roads," he said. If British industry was to stage a proper recovery, invest-

ment in transport equipment and infrastructure must rise equally with other forms of industrial capital equipment, he said.

It is plain nonsense to consider the need for economic growth based on increased industrial investment, without taking account of the need for increased and continuing investment in transport to support that growth.

Sir David criticized the concept of an integrated transport policy which had more to do with reconciling conflicting interests than promoting greater efficiency.

He welcomed the devolutionary flavour of the recent Transport White Paper but said transport had fared particularly badly in recent attempts to control public expenditure, presumably for reasons of political expediency.

Mr Hugh Featherstone, FTA director, said that uncertainty over drivers' hours was a "charade" in which a wrong decision by the EEC could have Britain unwittingly into a breach of the law.

## Quarterly textile exports increase by 27pc

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent  
Encouraging growth in exports of textiles and clothing and a check on imports, against the background of sluggish domestic demand and depressed production levels in the second quarter of this year, was reported yesterday.

Total exports over the three-month period were 5 per cent higher in volume terms than in the corresponding period of last year and 27 per cent greater in terms of current prices.

Yarns and fabrics exports amounted to £292.2m compared with £287.7m in the previous three-month period, while clothing exports rose to £126.9m compared with £119.2m in the previous quarter.

Largest increases occurred in the man-made fibres and carpets sectors with a particularly significant increase in the volume to EEC countries.

The latest survey of the industry, published in the weekly Government journal, *Trade and Industry*, also revealed the effectiveness of Government action to curb imports of textiles and clothing after appeals for protection from the industry.

Clothing imports in the second quarter fell to £177m from £201.5m in the first period, while imports of yarns and fabrics fell from £288.9m in the first three months to £274.8m in the second quarter.

Value of imports expressed in current prices fell for the first time since the beginning of 1975.

But the survey gave a warning that the most recent figures for imports of yarns and fabrics suggested that the second quarter's improvement was unlikely to be maintained.

Demand for household textiles fell by 13 per cent compared with the first three months of this year, while expenditure by consumers fell to its lowest level since 1975.

Levels of production remained depressed in almost all the major sectors.

The survey also noted that there was an easing in manufactured prices of textiles and clothing following sharp falls in prices paid for cotton and wool.

## US curbs cut Japan's colour TV exports

By Michael Bailey

Tokyo, Sept. 29.—Japan's colour television exports in August rose slightly to 366,435 sets from 365,297 in July, but fell 13.7 per cent from August last year, according to the Electronic Industries Association.

The association attributed the August decline chiefly to a drop in the export shipments to the United States after an agreement to curb exports from July. Exports to America fell 28.6 per cent to 173,881 in August from a year before.

Exports to Saudi Arabia rose 9.5 times to 11,113 sets from a year earlier. These to Kuwait were up 2.6 times to 3,633, and those to the United Arab Emirates up 3.2 times to 5,098.

August colour TV output fell 16.7 per cent to 686,000 sets from 823,500 in July and fell 21.9 per cent from August last year, the association said.

Reflecting slow domestic sales, colour TV stocks at the end of August rose to 1.16 million, from July's 1.14 million.—Reuters.

But by mid-afternoon prices began to drift again as the interest dried up and by the close the index was 4.1 lower at 515.4.

In spite of losses of half a point for longer maturities were replaced by gains of around five-fifths in spite of a further Bank signal that it wanted an unchanged M.L.R. Here, too, sterling was the spur which brought interest at the lower levels.

The implications of lower interest rates again inspired a continued demand for financial issues, but in more general terms most equity dealers see the short term as being a period of consolidation.

The two-way nature of business in the current market is working wonders for daily turnover which over the past two days has been back at the level of two weeks ago when the index reached its all-time peak.

A clutch of profit statements from leading names focused attention on the building sector. Here Higgs & Hill scored an impressive 70 rise to 83p rather to the surprise of some who thought the profits, though good, were not exceptional.

RMC was also 7p to the good, at 123p, after reporting profits film above most expectations. The surprise here was an improvement on the UK side.

The company's future was at the bottom end of what was a wide range of forecasts and with dealers taking note of the impact of higher interest charges the shares eased 11p for a close of 79p. Tarmac continued to react to the overseas losses re-

ported recently and the shares dipped another 5p to 163p, making 10p off in two days.

A further £22m worth of property sales and the consequent strengthening of the balance sheet brought interest in Trafalgar House Investments which ended 4p to the good at 150p.

Among other leading issues Metal Box proved to be a weak spot dipping 12p to 328p on worries over a price probe. Decca "A" continued to go ahead, this time by another 5p to 510p but Hawker Siddeley gave up 8p to 186p, Bowater 5p to 184p and BAT Debarred, the most active counter of the session, 5p to 230p. This week's reports that Reed Group may be considering selling its national newspapers brought a note of uncertainty to the shares which closed 5p lower at 194p.

Takeover and speculative activity continued to feature. Spink & Sons, spurred by the news of talks, added another 8p to 267p, and Moran Tea soared 129p to 410p after terms worth £4m from Eamonn Deane. Speculative demand was centred on Lafarge, up 11p to 99p awaiting a move from the parent, Manganese Bronze, which put on 6p to 48p and Marshalls Universal, which closed 14p to the good at 170p.

Investment demand was directed into commodity group Gill & Duffus and by the end of the session shares were 6p ahead at 220p.

In foods both Rowntree, 5p to 410p, and Wheatheaf, 5p to 215p, react from recent gains but their were reports of a good turnover in Tesco though this was not reflected in the price which eased half a point to 50p. In a better than average stores sector the pick was Gus "A", which rose 10p to 340p. But Owen Owen slipped 5p to 67p after reported a bigger loss. Responding to the more optimistic outlook investors favoured Combined English Stores, which reported on Wednesday, and the shares rose 2p to 94p. Consumer spending hopes continued to spur Dixons Photographic, which gained another 2p to 156p.

In the financial sector the clearing banks reacted to their recent strength with Lloyds lowered 7p to 280p, and Midland, 5p to 368p. But the merchants continued to find favour particularly L. Joseph, which went ahead 2p to 180p, and Hambros, 3p to 230p. Of the discounters, the best were Alexanders, up 7p to 252p, and Allen Harvey, 5p to 255p. Standard Chartered gained 6p to 418p.

The pick of a subdued property pitch was Bernard Stanley which rose 10p to 193p on a fresh takeover speculation. The main spur for the demand was Eagle Star's one-third stake though some point out that any move would need the consent of the board which controls around 30 per cent. The group has been particularly successful with contracting work in the Middle East.

Equity turnover on September 28 was £15,632m (19,431 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were BAT Dfd, ICI, Barclays Bank, Consolidated Gold Fields, Midland Bank, Unilever, Shell, Commercial Union, Rover, C.A.P., Lloyds, Pontins, Oil Exploration, Royal Insurance, RTZ, Hill Samuel, Lloyds Bank, RMC, Higgs & Hill, Fosco Minsep, Owen Owen, Gill & Duffus, and Metal Box.

More financial news, page 28

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

### Stock markets

## Plenty of business as sellers gain upper hand

Pay settlement worries over- shadowed equities for most of the session though a rally in gilt-edged prices lifted the bottom. The TUC's overnight opposition to Government coercion on pay brought an early market down which was quickly followed by some high selling as reports came through of municipal workers seeking rises of up to 30 per cent.

By 11 am the FT Index had lost a full five points but markets improved thereafter as limited buying developed on the strength of sterling which at one point stood at its best level against the dollar for more than a year.

Pauls and Whites managed to hold on to a 5p gain to 113p on suggestions that this old bid story is about to come true. What does seem to be true is that Spillers is not building a share stake, and that Mr J. R. Clay, would not be a director, nor, knows of no one, including BP, trying to take over the group. The group also seems to be doing reasonably well, with profits probably rising from £5.2m to £5.75m or so in the year to next March.

But by mid-afternoon prices began to drift again as the interest dried up and by the close the index was 4.1 lower at 515.4.

In spite of losses of half a point for longer maturities were replaced by gains of around five-fifths in spite of a further Bank signal that it wanted an unchanged M.L.R. Here, too, sterling was the spur which brought interest at the lower levels.

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Takeover and speculative activity continued to feature. Spink & Sons, spurred by the news of talks, added another 8p to 267p, and Moran Tea soared 129p to 410p after terms worth £4m from Eamonn Deane. Speculative demand was centred on Lafarge, up 11p to 99p awaiting a move from the parent, Manganese Bronze, which put on 6p to 48p and Marshalls Universal, which closed 14p to the good at 170p.

Investment demand was directed into commodity group Gill & Duffus and by the end of the session shares were 6p ahead at 220p.

In foods both Rowntree, 5p to 410p, and Wheatheaf, 5p to 215p, react from recent gains but their were reports of a good turnover in Tesco though this was not reflected in the price which eased half a point to 50p. In a better than average stores sector the pick was Gus "A", which rose 10p to 340p. But Owen Owen slipped 5p to 67p after reported a bigger loss. Responding to the more optimistic outlook investors favoured Combined English Stores, which reported on Wednesday, and the shares rose 2p to 94p. Consumer spending hopes continued to spur Dixons Photographic, which gained another 2p to 156p.

In the financial sector the clearing banks reacted to their recent strength with Lloyds lowered 7p to 280p, and Midland, 5p to 368p. But the merchants continued to find favour particularly L. Joseph, which went ahead 2p to 180p, and Hambros, 3p to 230p. Of the discounters, the best were Alexanders, up 7p to 252p, and Allen Harvey, 5p to 255p. Standard Chartered gained 6p to 418p.

The pick of a subdued property pitch was Bernard Stanley which rose 10p to 193p on a fresh takeover speculation. The main spur for the demand was Eagle Star's one-third stake though some point out that any move would need the consent of the board which controls around 30 per cent. The group has been particularly successful with contracting work in the Middle East.

Equity turnover on September 28 was £15,632m (19,431 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were BAT Dfd, ICI, Barclays Bank, Consolidated Gold Fields, Midland Bank, Unilever, Shell, Commercial Union, Rover, C.A.P., Lloyds, Pontins, Oil Exploration, Royal Insurance, RTZ, Hill Samuel, Lloyds Bank, RMC, Higgs & Hill, Fosco Minsep, Owen Owen, Gill & Duffus, and Metal Box.

More financial news, page 28

### Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Alfred Dunhill (1)	34.4 (27.93)	0.57 (0.27)	1.6 (0.3)	1.2 (1.2)	11/11	(1.69)
Anchor Chem (1)	5.81 (4.79)	0.3 (0.13)	2.6 (2.1)	2.0 (1.5)	26/10	(10.2)
APV Rides (1)	98.6 (58.5)	7.6 (5.4)	24.7 (12.62)	4.0 (3.5)	—	(3.58)
Assoc. Sprays (1)	11.46 (10.32)	1.11 (0.77)	11.3 (7.3)	1.5 (1.2)	—	(1.51)
Assoc. Sprays (1)	3.0 (2.8)	0.07 (0.05)	0.7 (0.6)	0.1 (0.1)	8/12	1.0 (0.97)
Aus Agric (1)	—	0.23 (0.124)	—	—	—	(0.1)
Brown Bros (1)	31.9 (27.8)	1.2 (0.75)	1.27 (0.81)	0.5 (0.2)	18/10	(0.9)
R. Cartwright (1)	2.4 (1.8)	0.29 (0.16)	3.86 (2.71)	1.5 (1.0)	11/11	(2.4)
Western Pro (1)	11.17 (6.13)	4.07 (0.65)	21.8 (2.9)	1.5 (1.2)	—	(1.51)
Finance & Ind (1)	1.9 (1.9)	0.16 (0.08)	2.05 (0.85)	0.1 (0.1)	9/12	(5.9)
James Finlay (1)	39.35 (29.29)	6.85 (2.15)	32.8 (9.7)	5.5 (2.75)	30/11	3.87 (3.57)
Footwear Int (F)	9.34 (8.92)	0.82 (0.72)	9.54 (8.8)	2.6 (2.4)	24/11	(1.1)
FPA Cons (1)	11.6 (12.6)	0.03 (0.038)	4.11 (4.0)	0.5 (0.5)	—	(0.4)
Grainseed (1)	3.57 (3.4)	0.53 (0.20)	—	—	1/12	(3.07)
Hanger Inv (1)	18.0 (13.2)	1.55 (0.76)	9.7 (4.9)	1.5 (1.3)	4/11	(4.6)
Higgs & Hill (1)	56 (45)	0.37 (0.26)	—	—	25/11	1.7 (1.5)
Hokins & Hira (1)	3.8 (3.6)	0.02 (0.01)	—	—	7/11	(2.9)
Lda Perillon (1)	3.6 (3.1)	0.25 (0.30)	2.71 (3.2)	1.1 (1.0)	—	(0.87)
Ingall Ind (F)	3.3 (2.8)	0.20 (0.15)	—	—	—	(0.87)
Modern Eng (1)	—	0.11 (0.08)	—	—	—	(0.87)
Montague Roe (1)	—	0.02 (0.01)	—	—	—	(0.87)
Starline (1)	2.6 (1.5)	0.08 (0.07)	4.6 (3.7)	0.6 (0.55)	3/12	(2.5)
N Ind Int (F)	—	0.58 (0.20)	—	—	—	(0.6)
Owen Owen (1)	36.9 (35.7)	2.9 (2.1)	—	—	—	(5.1)
Pirelli Cable (1)	42.9 (34.7)	1.41 (1.0)	—	—	—	(3.1)
Reading Mict (1)	265.1 (235.9)	1.8 (1.4)	—	—	—	(4.18 (3.76))
Stearns (1)	3.7 (2.8)	0.08 (0.07)	17.3 (16.1)	0.5 (0.4)	17/10	(1.1)
Strong & Fair (1)	27.1 (16.6)	0.37 (0.23)	2.61 (1.99)	—	—	(0.60)
Woods Assoc (1)	4.3 (3.5)	0.17 (0.16)	—	—	—	(0.60)
Geo Whimpey (1)	—	0.17 (0.16)	—	—	—	(0.60)

Figures in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross and net dividends by 1.5.15. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a Loss. b Forecast. c Adj for scrip. d Dollars.

## Trafalgar House in £22m property sales

By our Financial Staff

Trafalgar House Limited has recently made property sales for an aggregate consideration of approximately £22m. The transactions involved the sale of a portfolio of industrial and warehouse properties to an investment fund. The properties, which are situated at Cambridge, Canterbury, Enfield, Haringham, Newham and Woking, have a total floor area of 586,000 sq ft. This is a routine disposal following completion of the developments concerned and Trafalgar still has in hand a substantial programme of industrial and warehouse developments.

The sale of the modern office building at the former South Lodge site in Knightsbridge to an investment fund. This property is let to a Government agency. The residential site at South Lodge, recently offered for sale by tender, has also been sold to Grand Metropolitan Hotels Limited of London International Hotel Limited which owns the 424

bedroom hotel of that name in Cromwell Road. Trafalgar has no present intention of disposing of any of its other hotel interests.

The sale of 47 Berkeley Square. This office investment with its long term reversionary value no longer satisfies the requirements of Trafalgar's investment policy.

Mr Nigel Brookes, chairman.

## Higgs likely to reach a peak £3m

By Victor Felstead

Pre-tax profits of the Higgs and Hill construction and property group could top £3m for the first time ever this year. On turnover 23 per cent up to £56m in the first half of 1977, trading profits were ahead by the same percentage to £15.5m. Moreover, pre-tax profits more than doubled to £15.5m from £7.6m.

This was because there was no expansion provision to be deducted from trading profits, compared with 1976's £500,000.

bad debt. Earnings per share almost doubled.

Mr E. W. Phillips, chairman, expects second-half profits to be "no less" than in the first. This could mean £3.1m pre-tax, compared with last year's peak of £2.7m.

Turnover in the United Kingdom construction activities was better than expected. Good progress has been made on a number of important projects with record levels of output on Higgs's largest contract.

This was the management services centre for National Westminster Bank.

The order arose continuing to suffer from a drastic reduction in construction work in the public and private sectors. Although Higgs's reputation and increased marketing activities maintained a high level of tendering opportunities, it has avoided taking work at uneconomic prices.

But with the group's "strong financial position," Mr Phillips is confident that this is the right policy at present.

## NEB now in air cleaning

The National Enterprise Board has subscribed for 7,000 new shares in Hivent, of Washington, Tyne and Wear, at £2 a share. This gives the NEB 26 per cent.

Hivent specializes in the design, manufacture and installation of air pollution equipment. The company was set up three years ago, during which time the turnover has grown substantially and is projected at £800,000 in the current year.

The company has been consistently profitable.

Mr Bob Bowman, chairman, and Mr Greville Morgan, sales director, both just into their thirties, lead a workforce of 38.

Hivent has built a reputation for service and quality in design and manufacture. It provides itself on its delivery record and its commitment and after-sales service to a wide range of customers, many of whom are household names.

At the annual meeting, Sir Anthony Percival, chairman, told shareholders that the board intended to pay as the next interim the whole of the maximum allowed for 1977/78. This would be about 2.6p per share. It would be 10 per cent more than twice the dividend which was proposed at the meeting. Restraint is due to end after July next year.

After then, the board plans to pay a second dividend of the same amount. So shareholders can expect dividends next year more than double those received in 1977. Sir Anthony added: "Even so, of course, this will only offset partially the amount by which shareholders have been deprived during these years of inflation."

The stronger level of trading profit which was a feature of 1976/77 has continued into the new year. The indications for the current year's results are "indeed encouraging."

To the end of September, the initial figures reported from the various divisions put the group's substantially above the profits of the similar period of last year.

"While rising costs remain a threat to us all, I feel confident that this trend will continue, at least until the early months of 1978."

The chairman said shareholders should be in mind that the board's policy for the past 12 years has been to try to achieve for them both the advantages of a secure investment trust which can be relied on to earn regular dividends and at the same time maintain capital growth.

Thus the board can use the finance-backing of these investments and properties as collateral for the overdrafts and loans which finance Gordon's traditional overseas trading activities, and diversifications. In this way, shareholders' investments produce for them a second, further yield.

Ray Maughan

## THE HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY

### Notice to existing and intending investors and borrowers

#### Variation of Interest Rates

The Directors of The Halifax Building Society announce that the rates of interest charged to borrowers and paid to investors will be reduced as provided by the terms of this notice.

#### BORROWERS

The rates of interest charged on mortgage accounts will be reduced as follows:-



The Application List for the ordinary shares now offered for sale will open at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 5th October, 1977 and will close on the same day. A copy of this Offer for Sale, having attached thereto the documents specified below, has been delivered to the Registrar of Companies for registration. Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the whole of the issued share capital of South Crofty, Limited ("the Company") to be admitted to the Official List. The ordinary shares in the capital of the Company now offered for sale rank in full for all dividends hereafter declared or paid on the ordinary share capital of the Company. This document contains particulars given in compliance with the Regulations of the Council of The Stock Exchange for the purpose of giving information to the public with regard to the Company. The directors of the Company collectively and individually accept full responsibility for the accuracy of the information given and confirm, having made all reasonable enquiries, that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, there are no other facts the omission of which would make any statement herein misleading.

# South Crofty, Limited

(Incorporated in England under the Companies Acts 1862 to 1900. Registered in England No. 89550)

## Offer for Sale by Joseph Sebag & Co.

of 5,250,000 ordinary shares of 10p each at 50p per share payable in full on application

### 1 Share Capital and Indebtedness

#### 1.1 SHARE CAPITAL

Authorised	Issued
£2,000,000 divided into 20,000,000 ordinary shares of 10p each	£1,500,000

#### 1.2 INDEBTEDNESS

As at 14th September, 1977, the Company and its subsidiary, Great Western Ores, Limited ("Great Western Ores"), had secured borrowings of £150,000, in respect of which the Company has undertaken to indemnify Saint Piran Limited against any liability under a guarantee executed in favour of the Secretary of State for Industry, and hire purchase commitments of £86,723. The Company has created a fixed and floating charge in favour of its bankers to secure borrowings from time to time, of which none existed at that date. Apart therefrom, and from inter-company liabilities, neither the Company nor Great Western Ores had outstanding at that date any debentures, mortgages, charges, loan capital, hire purchase commitments, bank overdrafts, liabilities under acceptances, trade bills or acceptance credits or other similar indebtedness, or any guarantees or other material contingent liabilities.

### 2 Directors and other Parties

#### DIRECTORS

Peter Carstairs Buchanan OBE MCTD DL (Chairman)  
Rosenwyn, Lelant, St Ives, Cornwall TR26 3HY  
Gerald Crossland Pengilly MBE ACSM CEng FIMM (Managing Director)  
Enys, West Park, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 3AJ  
James Benjamin Hooper ACSM  
Curlew, Budnick Hill, Perranporth, Cornwall TR6 0AA  
Henry Ramon Montagu Hodding ACSM CEng FIMM  
29 St Nicholas Court, St Ives, Cornwall TR26 2SZ  
Peter Brian Adie BA  
13 Hill Street, Berkeley Square, London W1X 8DS  
SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICE  
William David Kneebone ACCA  
Pool, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 3QH

#### BANKERS

Barclays Bank Limited  
Ager Road, Mogán Highway, Pool, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 3EB

#### BROKERS TO THE COMPANY

Joseph Sebag & Co.  
P O Box 511, Bucklebury House, 3 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 8DX and The Stock Exchange

#### AUDITORS AND REPORTING ACCOUNTANTS

Turquand Barton Mayhew & Co., Chartered Accountants  
Lytton House, 7 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9LS  
Southernhay House, 36 Southernhay East, Exeter EX1 1LF

#### SOLICITORS TO THE COMPANY AND SAINT PIRAN LIMITED

Tinsworth, Selmer & Webb  
2 Serjeants' Inn, London EC4Y 1LT

#### SOLICITORS TO THE COMPANY

Stephens & Scowen  
3 Cross Lane, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 4AX

#### SOLICITORS TO THE OFFICE

Slaughter and May  
35 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DB

#### GEOLOGICAL AND MINING CONSULTANTS

Mackay and Schnellmann Limited  
Lincoln House, 298/302 High Holborn, London WC1V 7JJ

#### RECEIVING BANKERS

National Westminster Bank Limited  
New Issues Department, PO Box No. 79, Drapers Gardens,  
12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2P 2BD

#### REGISTRARS AND TRANSFER OFFICE

National Westminster Bank Limited  
Registrar's Department, P O Box 62, National Westminster Court,  
37 Broad Street, Bristol BS99 7NA

### 3 Chairman's Letter

The following is a copy of a letter addressed to Joseph Sebag & Co. ("Sebag") by Mr. P. C. Buchanan, the Chairman of the Company:—  
29th September, 1977

The Directors, Joseph Sebag & Co.  
Gentlemen,

In connection with your Offer for Sale of 5,250,000 ordinary shares of 10p each in the capital of South Crofty, Limited ("the Company"), I have pleasure in providing you with the following information concerning the Company and its subsidiary, Great Western Ores, Limited ("Great Western Ores"), which are together referred to as "the Group". These shares represent 25 per cent of the issued share capital of the Company, which is currently a wholly owned subsidiary of Saint Piran Limited ("Saint Piran"), a public company, the share capital of which is listed on The Stock Exchange. Saint Piran has confirmed that it is its intention to retain the balance of the issued share capital of the Company.

#### 3.1 ACTIVITIES

The Group owns and operates the South Crofty mine ("South Crofty") at Redruth, Cornwall, and the Wheal Pendarves mine ("Pendarves") at Camborne, Cornwall. Both mines produce tin ore which is upgraded at the mill at South Crofty ("the Mill") for sale as tin concentrate.

Tin mining has long been a tradition in Cornwall. However, techniques for the production of tin have undergone continual technological changes. During the last ten years the Group has invested over £4.5 million to increase productivity underground and to improve recovery and capacity in the Mill. It is interesting to note that with approximately the same number of employees, the Group's output of tin metal has risen over the last seven years from 120 tonnes in its first year of operation to 1,545 tonnes in the year ended 31st March, 1977. Investment in modern technology has resulted in South Crofty being one of the largest underground tin mines in the world. It is with confidence that the Group is planning further capital investment for the next three years, which will be financed from within the Group's own resources. Specific projects under review include deepening the workings of both South Crofty and Pendarves with the aim of a further increase in the level of production, the installation of a system for monitoring and improving the recovery of tin in the Mill and the erection of a new engineering workshop to provide modern facilities for the maintenance of the complex machinery necessary for today's mining methods.

The Group's production of high grade tin concentrate is sold under a contract which is renegotiated annually. The current contract for the sale of all the Group's high grade tin concentrate, which constitutes about 96 per cent of the Group's tin production, was awarded to Amalgamated Metal Corporation AG, of Switzerland, a company of international standing in the mining industry. This contract provides for regular prompt payments to the Group for weekly shipments of concentrate; the price being tied to the prevailing lowest of the official floor prices for standard tin metal, quoted on the London Metal Exchange ("LME").

#### 3.2 HISTORY

Although tin has been mined in Cornwall since before Roman times, underground mining did not begin until the Middle Ages, when the mines were usually no more than shallow pits dug where the tin bearing veins (lodes) were found near the surface. At the beginning of the eighteenth century, mining for copper commenced and soon became the principal industry in Cornwall, reaching its peak in the middle of the nineteenth century.

At this time there was a very important discovery of a tin zone beneath the copper zone, which was then heavily worked out in the Dolcoath copper mine, later to become Cornwall's deepest and richest tin mine. Smaller discoveries were made at East Pool, Cook's Kitchen, Tincroft and other mines, some of which are now owned by the Group. Copper production had almost ceased by the mid-1880s, but by then

Cornwall was as well known for its deep lode tin mining as it had been for copper.

This resurgence of Cornish tin mining prompted the formation of the Company on 18th July, 1908 as a public company for the purpose of acquiring the mine known as South Wheel Crofty which was subsequently amalgamated with other adjacent mines.

On 15th June, 1967, Siamse Tin Syndicate Limited ("Siamse Tin") made an offer for all the issued share capital of the Company which it did not already own. This offer was accepted, the listing of the Company's shares on The Stock Exchange was cancelled and the Company became a wholly owned subsidiary of Siamse Tin.

A Scheme of Arrangement was effected on 31st July, 1970 under Section 206 of the Companies Act, 1948, whereby Saint Piran, which at that time was called St. Piran Mining Company Limited, acquired all the issued share capital of Siamse Tin. Subsequently the Company became a directly owned subsidiary of Saint Piran.

On 29th May, 1973, Great Western Ores, a previously dormant and a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, purchased the mining leases, the fixed assets and certain other assets of Pendarves.

Since that date there has been no significant change in the capital structure or activities of the Group, save for the capital reorganisation, particulars of which are set out under Statutory and General Information.

#### 3.3 PROPERTY

Details of the mines owned by the Group are as set out below:—

Map Ref.	Site	Area (acres)	Tenure	Payments (annual rent)	Mineral royalties
1	Dolcoath North and South	537	Freehold	Nil	Nil
2	North and South Rucknor and Saxon	181	50 years from 5.5.36	300	2%
3	Dol Crofty and New Cook's Kitchen	52	50 years from 1.1.60	112.50	4%
4	North Crofty and Trowson	86	60 years from 1.1.60	50	4%
5	East Saxon	41	60 years from 1.1.60	50	4%
6	Pendelick and North Tincroft	44	60 years from 1.1.60	56.25	4%
7	Dolcoath	17	60 years from 1.1.60	8.25	4%
8	Pendelick Veag	21	60 years from 1.1.60	72.50	4%
9*	East Pool	492	Freehold	Nil	Nil
10	Agar	324	60 years from 1.1.60	Nil	3%

For the purposes of illustration only.

Notes: 1. Royalties are calculated on the turnover attributable to each mining lease. Minimum rents are payable only when and to the extent that such rents exceed the royalty payable.  
2. The Company owns 19 acres of nearby surface land not included in the above table, not essential to the mining operations.  
3. The Company has been granted an option by South Crofty Properties Limited to acquire certain land adjacent to the Group's properties at an aggregate consideration equal to £105,825.  
4. The Company is also liable for surface and wayleave rent and royalties with respect to ancillary operations, which amounted to £2,300 for the quarter ended in June, 1977.  
5. There are certain imperfections to the title of the land marked\*, but the directors consider that these have no material effect on the operations of the Group.

Map Ref.	Site	Area (acres)	Tenure	Payments (annual rent)	Mineral royalties
1	Pendarves (Forestry)	109	21 years from 30.9.69	650	4%
2*	Pendarves	1,288	42 years from 25.12.66	1,500	3%
3	Pendarves (Farming)	226	24 years from 1.4.67	200	3%
3 (part only)	Pendarves (Farming) surface	28	Freehold	Nil	Nil
4	Cleavance	1,717	42 years from 25.12.67	4,000	3%
5	Brannville	190	21 years from 1.1.66	100	2%
6*	Chyrcane	52	42 years from 1.4.70	100	3%
7	Tolcarnes	92	21 years from 4.4.67	117	3%

For the purposes of illustration only.

Notes: 1. Royalties are calculated on the turnover attributable to each mining lease. Minimum rents are payable only when and to the extent that such rents exceed the royalty payable.  
2. A lease is currently being negotiated for 110 acres of river bed and adjacent land for a term of 14 years from 1st January, 1977 at a minimum rent of £3,000 per annum, with royalties at 4%.  
3. Great Western Ores is also liable for wayleave rent and royalties with respect to ancillary operations, which amounted to £346 for the quarter ended in June, 1977.  
4. With regard to the land cross-hatched on the map above, the lease extends only to an undivided half share.  
5. There are certain imperfections to the title of the land marked\*, but the directors consider that these have no material effect on the operations of the Group.

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#### 3.5 ORE RESERVES

As at 31st March, 1977, the Group's ore reserves, excluding the Group's stock of broken ore, according to the report of Mackay and Schnellmann Limited, were as follows:—

1. Demonstrated reserves  
Measured ore 317,834 tonnes of tin ore with an average grade of 1.96%Sn.

Indicated ore 676,765 tonnes of tin ore with an average grade of 1.69%Sn.

#### 2. Inferred reserves

Inferred ore of the order of 1,250,000 tonnes.

The terminology "demonstrated", "measured", "indicated" and "inferred" is used according to the United States Bureau of Mines' internationally accepted classification of reserves, which may be summarised as follows:—

Demonstrated a collective term for the sum of the measured and indicated reserves or resources.

Measured ore ore reserves for which tonnage is computed from measured dimensions and for which the grade is computed from the results of detailed sampling.

Indicated ore ore reserves for which tonnage and grade are computed partly from specific measurements and samples and partly from projection for a reasonable distance on geological evidence.

Inferred ore ore reserves for which quantitative estimates are based largely on broad knowledge of the geological character of the deposit and for which there are few, if any, samples or measurements.

#### 3.6 STATISTICS

Details of the Group's production and other relevant statistics for the period from 1st January, 1972 to 31st March, 1977, are as follows:—

	Year ended 31st December 1972	15 months ended 31st March 1974	Year ended 31st March 1975	Year ended 31st March 1976	Year ended 31st March 1977
Ore treated—tonnes	145,000	187,712	177,551	205,371	218,000
Production of tin metal—tonnes	1,108	1,378	1,184	1,433	1,545
Development—metres	5,142	5,173	4,708	2,588	4,594
Permissible drilling—metres	46.88	24,000	46.88	24,000	24,000
Diamond drilling—metres	1,986	1,397	2,248	1,919	1,571
Working costs—£ per tonne treated	3.78	11.47	16.09	17.30	20.58
LME average tin price—£ per tonne	7,506	2,218	3,469	3,125	4,891

Notes: 1. The above statistics include Pendarves from 1st June, 1973, after its purchase by Great Western Ores.  
2. Percentage payable is that percentage of development metrage which, after sampling, indicates the presence of tin at an economic grade.  
3. Diamond drilling is the drilling for cores of rock which are examined to provide information on the structure and value of distant lodes.

#### 3.7 MINING METHODS

The reserves of South Crofty and Pendarves are established by crosscutting from the shafts on each level of the mines to the tin bearing lodes. Drives are then developed along the lodes. Crosscuts and drives are tunnels about eight feet wide mined by jolting a pattern of holes, usually eight feet in length, into which explosive is packed and blasted. When sampling shows that 40 metres of continuous lode is found to have economic values in drives on two consecutive levels, the block of ground between the levels, containing the nearly vertical tin lode, is scheduled as a measured reserve block for future mining.

Before working a reserve block, an incline tunnel (raise) is made to link the drives of the block. The raise is used to prove further the economic value of the block and to provide ventilation. The miners can then start to extract (stope) the tin-bearing ore contained in the reserve block. The reserve block is worked either from the upper level downwards (underhand stoping) or from the lower level upwards (overhand stoping) or a combination of both. In overhand stoping, the miner stands on ore previously broken to progress up the stope. Since broken ore is approximately one third greater in volume than unbroken ore, the surplus ore has to be drawn out of the stope daily in order to maintain sufficient space in which the miner can work.

The broken ore on each level is taken from the stopes and trammed, using small electric locomotives with up to eight trucks, to an ore pass through which it is dropped to the bottom level of the mine. On the bottom level of South Crofty, larger locomotives, using two-tonne trucks, transport the ore through the newly completed main haulage way to Cook's Shaft where it is crushed before being hoisted for milling. At South Crofty two underground crushers have been installed to ensure continuous production. At Pendarves the crushing process is carried out on the surface.

#### 3.8 MILLING TECHNIQUES

In the last ten years, the Company has invested in a new crushing and heavy media separation plant and two additional mills. Key items of machinery have been duplicated so that production is not impaired when such items are undergoing scheduled maintenance. The construction of a mineral recovery system to process sand residues and mineral dump deposits has been completed. In addition, 5,000 tonnes of extra storage capacity has been added. The Mill is now capable of treating 250,000 tonnes of ore per year.

Ore from Pendarves is transported by road to South Crofty, a distance of two and a half miles. This ore and the ore from South Crofty is fed by conveyor belt into the Mill where it undergoes a series of crushing, washing and grinding stages to liberate the tin from granites and other materials.

The first stage of crushing reduces the ore to a size of less than 20 millimetres which is fed into the heavy media separation plant where it is mixed with ferrosilicon and water to produce slurry. This slurry is dense enough to cause the light ore with its low tin content to float. About 40 per cent of the ore floats and is discarded and the remaining ore is thereby upgraded from an average of 1.0 per cent tin to 1.7 per cent tin.

The second stage consists of grinding the ore to reduce it to a fine sand in the rod mills. This product is classified into six different sizes and is fed on to riffled vibrating tables. The lighter waste materials (tailings) are washed off and are discarded, after sampling, while the heavy tin-bearing ore (concentrate) is vibrated along the table to the end where it is discharged and pumped to the flotation plant for the removal of unwanted sulphide minerals.

The tables also produce low grade tin concentrates (middlings) which are ground finer in the ball mills and then retailed to produce further concentrates and tailings.

The tin concentrates from the flotation plant are retailed, dried and fed into magnetic separators for the removal of iron and wolfram. They are then bagged and sold.

#### 3.9 MANAGEMENT AND PERSONNEL

##### Directorate

Mr. P. C. Buchanan, aged 64, has been a director of the Company since 1965 and was appointed Chairman on 27th July, 1976. He has had over 30 years' experience in industry and commerce in Cornwall and the South West and was a director of UBM Group Limited until his retirement in 1973. He is a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Cornwall and from 1973 to 1975 was President of the National Federation of Builders and Plumbers Merchants.

Mr. G. C. Pengilly, aged 52, graduated from the Camborne School of Mines in 1945. He spent 17 years overseas in the mining industry, mainly in West Africa. He joined the Company in 1963, became a director in 1973 and was appointed managing director on 1st July, 1975. Mr. Pengilly has entered into a service agreement with the Company, details of which are set out under Statutory and General Information.



The ITC receives compulsory contributions from the producer countries and voluntary contributions from consumer countries. The Buffer Stock Manager buys tin into his stockpile to support the floor price and sells tin when the price rises, to defend the ceiling price. At present the tin metal price is substantially above the buffer stock price ranges of Malaysian ringgits 1,200-1,500 per picul (equivalent to £4,636-£5,795 per tonne at an exchange rate of 4.28 ringgits to £1). Therefore the ITC currently has little, if any, stocks of tin and its powers to restrict fluctuations in the price of tin are thereby limited.

As a last resort, the ITC can require export controls to be imposed, if the floor price is severely threatened, thus limiting the production of tin metal by producer countries. The United Kingdom does not qualify as a producer country and tin restrictions, if imposed, would not materially affect the Group's production or sales.

The other major organisation which influences the tin metal price is the GSA, the controlling authority for American stockpiled materials, but it can sell tin only with the approval of Congress. During the course of the Korean War, the GSA accumulated about 350,000 tonnes of tin metal stocks, of which during the last 14 years over 145,000 tonnes have been sold. By virtue of its ability to release further stocks of tin metal on the world markets, the GSA may be able in the short term to regulate tin metal prices to a greater extent than the ITC.

From the statistical viewpoint, tin is in short supply. Production and consumption statistics show that since 1950 there has been a shortfall in production of a total of 218,000 tonnes of tin metal. However sales by the GSA have lessened the effect of the shortfall and have been a major influence on tin metal prices during the period.

It is believed that the deficit between supply and demand will continue. The effect of continuing deficits is likely to lead to higher tin prices on world markets, which will be to the benefit of the Group. Though in the past the Group has sold tin on the forward market, this practice was discontinued in December, 1976, and it is not now the Group's policy to make forward sales.

### 3.11 PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS

As you will see from section 5 of the Accountants' Report, the profits of the Group have risen substantially. The Group is currently enjoying favourable trading conditions. The directors have made the following principal assumptions in preparing their profit forecast for the year ending 31st March, 1978:—

1. The Group's present composition, management and commercial and accounting policies will remain unchanged.
2. There will be no material changes in legislation or regulations affecting the Group's activities or the markets within which it operates or in the bases or rates of taxation.
3. No major stoppages caused by mechanical failure or labour disputes will significantly affect production.
4. Adequate provision has been made for both known and anticipated increases in labour and material costs.
5. There will be no external restriction on the output and sales of tin concentrates.
6. Payability (as referred to in the notes to 3.8) will be not less than 35%.
7. There will be no forward sales of tin.
8. The average price of tin metal from 1st September, 1977 which determines the price of concentrates produced by the Group, will be £5,900 per tonne.

On the basis of the above the directors forecast that, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, the profits of the Group attributable to shareholders in the Company for the year ending 31st March, 1978 will be not less than £2,000,000, before taxation and extraordinary items. It is therefore the directors' intention to declare an interim dividend for the year ending 31st March, 1978 of 1.65p per share (16.5 per cent) payable in or about February 1978 and to recommend a final dividend for that year of 2.475p per share (24.75 per cent) payable in or about August 1978 which, together with the associated tax credits, assuming ACT at 34 per cent, would be equivalent to a gross distribution of 6.25p per share (62.5 per cent).

On the above basis the dividend would be covered 1.55 times by profits after taxation and, at the offer price of 50p per share, the ordinary shares being offered for sale would show a dividend yield of 12.5 per cent.

Yours faithfully,  
P. C. BUCHANAN, Chairman

### 4 Geological and Mining Consultants' Report

The following is a copy of a report from Mackay and Schnellmann Limited, geological and mining consultants.

Lincoln House, 286/302, High Holborn  
London WC1V 7JJ

The Directors, South Crofty, Limited  
The Directors, Joseph Seabag & Co.

29th September, 1977

Gentlemen

You have instructed us to report on the mining operations at South Crofty and Pendarves.

1.01 In the course of the preparation of this report, we have visited the mines at South Crofty and Pendarves and we have been afforded full access to all the books and records kept of the operations conducted there. We have also inspected all those aspects of the operations which we considered relevant from the geological work through to the production of tin concentrates, including reference to the essential component costs through to the sale of the concentrate. We have also carried out such check sampling as we have considered necessary.

#### 2.00 GENERAL

##### 2.10 Location, History and Geology

2.11 The properties which are the subject of this report are known as South Crofty Mine which is situated at Redruth, Cornwall, and Wheal Pendarves Mine which is situated at Camborne, Cornwall.

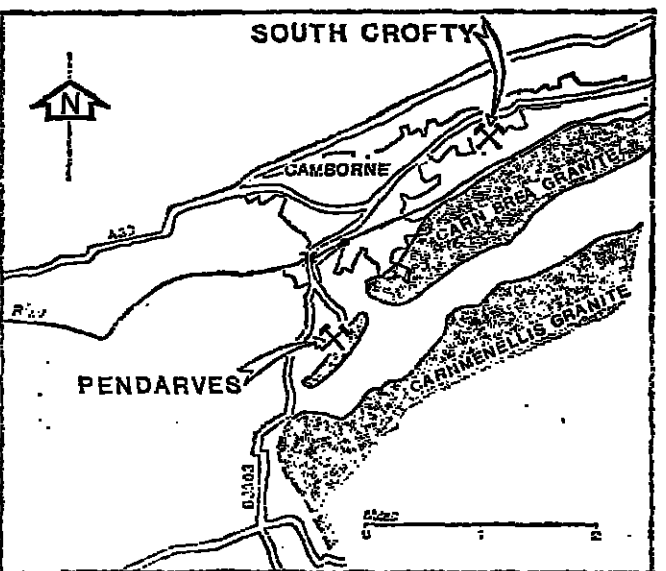


Figure 1

2.12 South Crofty has been in production as a tin mine since the last century. There has been a mine at Pendarves since about the same date, although the present shaft and operations are relatively new, having commenced production in 1967.

2.13 South Crofty and Pendarves lie respectively within the northern margins of the Cambrian and Cornubian granites (Figure 1) in Cornwall.

#### 2.20 Mineralisation

2.21 Cassiterite and wolframite, which are tin and tungsten bearing minerals respectively, are to be found at South Crofty and Wheal Pendarves in a series of subparallel high dipping lode structures on an east-north-east strike traversing both the granites and country rocks, which are locally known as 'killas'. A series of north-north-west striking cross courses are also present but are generally barren of economic mineralisation.

2.22 At South Crofty there are some twenty lodes which are known to exist, but at Pendarves there are two main lodes which are worked.

2.23 The mineralogy of South Crofty and the mineralogy of Pendarves are similar; any significant differences are caused by the effect of weathering at Pendarves. Gangue and associated minerals in the mines include quartz, tourmaline, chlorite, haematite, chalcocite, arsenopyrite, fluorite and pyrite.

#### 2.30 Sampling

2.31 At both mines chip samples are taken at regular intervals in the development headings and backs of stopes. At South Crofty the heading sampling interval is 3 metres whilst at Pendarves a 2 metre interval is normal. At each sampling location the different rock types are sampled separately.

2.32 After crushing and splitting, the samples are analysed with a portable isotope fluorescence instrument, by atomic absorption spectrophotometry or by wet chemical methods in the South Crofty laboratory. Analysis of individual samples by more than one method maintains a continuous check on the results.

#### 2.40 Reserves

2.41 Underground sampling results are the basis on which reserves are calculated by accepted methods of the mining industry. Unworked blocks are based on samples taken from development headings, whilst partially stoped-out blocks take note of stopes samples.

#### 2.42 Demonstrated reserves

Measured ore:—317,834 tonnes of tin ore with an average grade of 1.98%Sn. There is a 95% probability that the actual tonnage of tin ore lies within limits of plus or minus 6.3% and that the actual grade lies within limits of plus or minus 8.2%.

Indicated ore:—676,765 tonnes of tin ore with an average grade of 1.69%Sn.

2.43 In addition there is Inferred ore of the order of 1,250,000 tonnes. This is not included in the Demonstrated reserves. At South Crofty the Inferred ore, apart from a small block above the 260 fathom level, is assumed to lie in a block below the 360 fathom level between 300 metres south and 800 metres north of Robinson's Shaft, to a depth of 145 metres, over a strike length of 1,650 metres. At Pendarves the Inferred ore is assumed to lie in a rectangular block below the 5 level to a depth of 121 metres, over a strike length of 2,050 metres.

2.44 The above terms Measured, Indicated, Demonstrated and Inferred are used according to the United States Bureau of Mines' internationally accepted classification of reserves, which defines them as follows:—

"Measured—Reserves or resources for which tonnage is computed from dimensions revealed in outcrops, trenches, workings, and drill holes and for which the grade is computed from the results of detailed sampling. The sites for inspection, sampling, and measurement are spaced so closely and the geologic character is so well defined that size, shape, and mineral content are well established. The computed tonnage and grade are judged to be accurate within limits which are stated, and no such limit is judged to be different from the computed tonnage or grade by more than 20 per cent.

Indicated—Reserves or resources for which tonnage and grade are computed partly from specific measurements, samples, or production data and partly from projection for a reasonable distance on geologic evidence. The sites available for inspection, measurement, and sampling are too widely or otherwise inappropriately spaced to permit the mineral bodies to be outlined completely or the grade established throughout.

Demonstrated—A collective term for the sum of measured and indicated reserves or resources.

Inferred—Reserves or resources for which quantitative estimates are based largely on broad knowledge of the geologic character of the deposit and for which there are few, if any, samples or measurements. The estimates are based on an assumed continuity or repetition, of which there is geologic evidence; this evidence may include comparison with deposits of similar type. Bodies that are completely concealed may be included if there is specific geologic evidence of their presence. Estimates of inferred reserves or resources should include a statement of the specific limits within which the inferred material may lie."

2.45 In our opinion, the economic life of South Crofty and Pendarves is not restricted by the time which will be taken to extract the Demonstrated reserves. It is common for such underground lode mines to have Demonstrated reserves which would support production for no more than 2 or 3 years, as it is generally accepted that the development costs of proving a much greater quantity of Demonstrated reserves cannot be justified in terms of capital expenditure.

2.46 The history, geology and mineralisation of the mineral province of which South Crofty and Pendarves form a part justify a projection of a working life of at least ten years and probably longer.

### 3.00 MINING

#### 3.10 Access

3.11 At South Crofty, ore and waste are hoisted from the underground crushing plant through Cook's Shaft in skips to the surface. Robinson's Shaft is used for carrying men and materials. Two other main shafts serve merely for ventilation.

3.12 Pendarves is served by Simms' Shaft, one compartment of which is used for hoisting of skips containing ore and another for men, materials and cars of waste rock. A second access provides ventilation and an emergency exit.

#### 3.20 Development

3.21 Cross-cuts have been driven from the shafts across the veins of tin bearing mineral along which development headings and haulages have been driven. At South Crofty, there are currently six working levels, the lowest of which is at 380 fathoms below datum. A sub-vertical shaft is projected from the 360 down to the 440 fathom level.

3.22 Pendarves has six working levels, the lowest of which is at 290 metres below datum. The deepening of the shaft to approximately 370 metres below datum is under consideration.

#### 3.30 Stopping

3.31 Ore is extracted by the methods known as overhand and underhand shrinkage stopping, except where circumstances permit the use of a long hole drilling method. Minimum stopping width is 1 metre.

3.32 A production of 242,000 tonnes run of mine ore per year is projected by 1981 from South Crofty. In the absence of a decision to deepen the shaft, a production of 38,000 tonnes run of mine ore per year is projected at Pendarves for the period during which 6 level is under development. In addition, tin bearing material is recovered from tailings and is fed back to the mill.

#### 3.40 Dilution and Mining Recovery

3.41 Dilution due to overbreasting is estimated to be 20-25%.

3.42 Unmined pillars will give a mining recovery of approximately 88%.

#### 3.50 Underground Transport and Hoisting

3.51 Ore at South Crofty is drawn from the stopes from chutes (or drawpoints) and hauled by locomotive drawn mine cars to the ore/waste pass system, whence it gravitates to the 360 and 380 underground crusher levels.

3.52 Development ore is loaded in to cars and also transported to the crusher by the ore pass system. Where it cannot be stored in old workings, waste is for the most part similarly transported and crushed.

3.53 The crushed material is raised in 6 tonne skips loaded from 6 tonne measuring pockets.

3.54 At Pendarves the ore is raised in a 5 tonne skip from 117m and 245m below collar level and crushed on the surface, whilst waste is hoisted in mine cars in the cage.

#### 3.60 Capital Projects

3.61 Apart from improvement and replacement of plant and machinery, the major capital project is the projected sub-vertical shaft at South Crofty (paragraph 3.21 above), for which preparation is in hand and which should be completed within two years.

#### 3.70 Pumping

3.71 Water enters the South Crofty workings at a rate of approximately 1,500 gallons per minute (gpm). At Pendarves the rate varies from about 500 to 1,100 gpm.

3.72 The pumping capacity at South Crofty is about 2,800 gpm and at Pendarves about 1,800 gpm.

#### 4.00 MILLING

4.01 Broadly speaking the process scheme is gravity concentration of an orthodox type for tin ores i.e. table concentration with a primary heavy media separation treatment ahead of the tables to pre-concentrate a major fraction of the ore and reject a low grade tailing in as large a percentage of the total weight as possible.

4.02 For the year ended 31st March, 1977:—

Millhead grade averaged 0.97%Sn. Concentrate grades ran 55.21%Sn and 17.35%Sn for high and low grade concentrates respectively. The mill recovered an average of 71.62% of the tin contained in the ore fed to the mill.

4.03 The mill comprises three discrete circuits which are considered to provide a high degree of security against stoppages due to excessive maintenance work or breakdowns.

#### 5.00 SERVICES

5.01 Electric power is supplied from the national grid by two separate points of supply. A stand-by generator is to be installed shortly to assist exist of personnel in emergencies.

5.02 An adequate compressed air supply is available, a new plant having been installed in 1974.

5.03 Process water is drawn from underground workings and nearby streams.

### 6.00 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING

6.01 At the beginning of each financial year, a detailed budget for the coming twelve month period is produced, showing projected production, costs, capital expenditure and cash flow.

6.02 Each month the Company prepares statistics comparing actual performances with budgeted figures, and a monthly financial statement also is prepared to analyse actual costs against budgeted costs.

### 7.00 SMELTER CONTRACTS

7.01 The greater part of the tin produced is currently sold as a high grade concentrate to Amalgamated Metal Corporation AG, Zug, Switzerland under a contract renegotiated annually.

7.02 Low grade concentrates are sold to Copper Pass & Son, Limited under a contract which is subject to more frequent review.

Yours faithfully

MACKAY AND SCHNELLMANN LIMITED  
M. REYNOLDS  
Director

### 5 Accountants' Report

The following is a copy of a report from Turquand Barton Mayhew & Co., Chartered Accountants, the auditors of the Company and reporting accountants.

Lynton House  
7 Tavistock Square  
London WC1H 9LS

Southernhay House  
38 Southernhay East  
Exeter EX1 1LF

The Directors  
South Crofty, Limited

The Directors  
Joseph Seabag & Co.

29th September, 1977

Gentlemen

1. We have examined the audited accounts of South Crofty, Limited ("the Company") and of its subsidiary Great Western Ores, Limited ("Great Western Ores") for the period relevant to this report; we have acted as auditors of the Company and Great Western Ores since 1st April, 1974.

2. Throughout the periods relevant to this report the Company has been a wholly owned subsidiary of Saint Piran Limited ("Saint Piran") and Great Western Ores has been a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company.

3. The information set out below is based on the audited accounts of the Company and Great Western Ores, hereinafter called "the Group", after making such adjustments as we consider appropriate. The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, including the revaluation of certain fixed assets, and in accordance with the standards approved by the accounting bodies currently in force, with the exception that stocks of tin concentrate, as stated in 4 (c) below, are valued by reference to subsequent net sales proceeds. Whilst this method of valuing stocks is not in accordance with the relevant standard accounting practices, the directors are of the opinion that it is preferable to continue the previous practice having regard to the reasons given in 4 (c) below; we concur with this view. In our opinion the information given, under the accounting convention stated above, a true and fair view of the profits and losses and position and application of funds of the Group for the five years and three months ended 31st March, 1977 and of the state of affairs of the Company at 31st March, 1977 and of the Group at 31st December, 1971 and 1972 and at 31st March for each of the years 1974 to 1977.

	Notes	Year ended 31.12.72 £'000	15 months ended 31.3.74 £'000	Year ended 31.3.75 £'000	Year ended 31.3.76 £'000	Year ended 31.3.77 £'000
Turnover	(b)	1,570	2,961	3,501	4,135	6,684
Cost of sales after charging/(crediting):						
Depreciation		263	435	334	468	688
Grants		(57)	(97)	(89)	(97)	(144)
Interest payable		22	48	67	87	81
		1,648	2,458	3,118	4,004	5,145
Profit/(loss) before taxation	(c)	(78)	505	383	131	1,525
Taxation		(41)	248	170	34	709
Profit/(loss) after taxation, before extraordinary items		(37)	256	213	97	810
Extraordinary items, less taxation	(d)	—	(31)	104	—	—
Profit/(loss) attributable to shareholders	(e)	(37)	225	317	97	810
Dividends		—	—	40	2	492
Retained profit/(loss)	(f)	(37)	225	277	95	317
Earnings/(loss) per share	(f)	(0.25p)	1.71p	1.42p	0.85p	5.53p

NOTES (a) The above profits and losses have been arrived at after making such adjustments as we considered appropriate. In particular:—  
(i) Losses on forward sales contracts.  
In previous years the Group sold tin in the forward market and incurred net losses in so doing. This practice has been discontinued and the losses have been reversed in arriving at the figures reported above, as they no longer form part of the Group's normal trading activities. The net losses incurred were as follows:—

	Net losses £'000	Tax thereon at 52% £'000	Losses after tax £'000
1972	—	—	—
1973/74	415	216	199
1974/75	99	51	48
1975/76	—	—	—
1976/77	8	4	4

(b) Turnover represents the total of all external sales, including sales of tin concentrate produced during the period.  
(c) The charge/(credit) for taxation represents corporation tax, including deferred taxation, on the adjusted results of the Group, as follows:—

	Current £'000	Deferred £'000	Total £'000
1972	—	—	—
1973/74	—	(141)	(141)
1974/75	—	248	248
1975/76	—	170	170
1976/77	28	681	709

(d) Extraordinary items were as follows:—

	£'000
1973/74 Prospecting expenditure in Sierra Leone tax relief	(31)
1974/75 Profit on sale of land, mainly to a fellow subsidiary	104

(e) The rates of dividend per share paid by the Company in respect of the five years and three months ended 31st March, 1977 and the number of shares on which dividends were paid were as follows:—

	Rate of dividends per share in pence	Number of shares
1972	—	1,131,895
1973/74	—	1,131,895
1974/75	3.53	1,131,898
1975/76	0.14	1,131,896
1976/77	5.55	1,131,896

(f) Earnings/(loss) per share have been calculated:—  
(i) on 15,000,000 ordinary shares in issue at the date of this report;  
(ii) on the adjusted profit/(loss) of each period after taxation but before taking into account extraordinary items.

### 6. BALANCE SHEETS

The Company	Notes	The Group					
31.3.77 £'000		31.12.71 £'000	31.12.72 £'000	31.3.74 £'000	31.3.75 £'000	31.3.76 £'000	31.3.77 £'000
200	Capital employed	200	200	200	200	200	200
7,084	Share capital	518	493	479	549	2,800	6,917
7,284	Reserves	718	693	878	849	2,800	7,117
457	Investment and regional development grants	523	511	465	471	465	480
329	Deferred taxation	38	6	48	172	182	829
—	Term loan	—	—	—	150	150	150
8,570		1,279	1,210	1,191	1,842	3,597	8,596
7,838	Employment of capital	2,045	1,545	1,848	1,915	3,357	2,134
241	Fixed assets	—	—	—	—	—	—
573	Group companies	—	50	—	340	645	573
(558)	Investment in Great Western Ores	(518)	(705)	(668)	(516)	(550)	(589)
255	Amounts due from Saint Piran and fellow subsidiaries	(818)	(668)	(668)	(176)	95	14
972	Amounts due to Saint Piran and fellow subsidiaries	31	13	127	86	138	972
276	Current assets	111	120	176	282	337	383
102	Stocks of concentrates	122	119	735	276	359	102
—	Stores and spares	104	—	—	—	—	—
118	Debtors	216	41	78	133	92	158
4	Taxation recoverable	2	2	3	4	3	4
1,472	Grants receivable	586	301	1,120	761	927	7,601
8,668	Bank balances and cash	1,813	1,591	2,300	2,490	4,899	3,749
577	Current liabilities	325	228	481	335	612	1,045
12	Creditors	—	—	—	—	—	13
9	Advance corporation tax	—	—	—	—	—	—
96	Taxation	209	165	628	813	650	88
1,095	Bank overdraft (secured)	534	381	1,109	848	7,282	1,182
8,570		1,279	1,210	1,191	1,842	3,597	8,596



Southey House,  
36 Southey East,  
Estate EX1 1LF  
23rd September, 1977

Lynton House,  
7 Tavistock Square,  
London WC1H 9LS

The Directors, South Crofty, Limited  
The Directors, Joseph Seabag & Co.  
Gentlemen

We have reviewed the accounting bases and calculations of the profit forecast of South Crofty, Limited and its subsidiary (for which the directors are solely responsible) for the year ending 31st March, 1978 contained in the Offer for Sale document to be dated 29th September, 1977.

In our opinion the forecast, so far as the accounting bases and calculations are concerned, has been properly compiled on the footing of the assumptions made by the directors as set out in the paragraph "Profit and Dividends" of the Offer for Sale document to be dated 29th September, 1977.

TURQUANDS BARTON MAYHEW & CO.  
Chartered Accountants  
3 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 8DX  
29th September, 1977

The Directors, South Crofty, Limited  
Gentlemen

We refer to the forecast of consolidated profits before taxation for the year ending 31st March, 1978 contained in paragraph "Profit and Dividends" of the Offer for Sale document to be dated 29th September, 1977. We have discussed the forecast and the assumptions on which it is made with officers and executives of your Company.

We have also considered the letter addressed to yourselves from Turquands Barton Mayhew & Co. concerning the accounting bases and calculations for the year ending 31st March, 1978 (for which you as Directors are solely responsible) has been made after due and careful enquiry.

Yours faithfully,  
For JOSEPH SEABAG & CO.  
A. C. GILMOUR

5.10. CONSENTS AND DOCUMENTS

Turquands Barton Mayhew & Co. have given and have not withdrawn their written consent to the issue of this Offer for Sale with the inclusion therein of a copy of their Report and references thereto and a copy of their letter relating to the profit forecast in the form and context in which they are included.

Mackay and Schnellmann Limited have given and have not withdrawn their written consent to the issue of this Offer for Sale with the inclusion therein of a copy of their Report and references to such Report and their valuations referred to in the Report of Turquands Barton Mayhew & Co. together with references to such valuations in the form and context in which they are included.

Joseph Seabag & Co. have given and have not withdrawn their written consent to the issue of this Offer for Sale with the inclusion therein of a copy of their letter relating to the profit forecast in the form and context in which it is included.

6.11. DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

Copies of the following documents may be inspected at the offices of Joseph Seabag & Co., 3 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 8DX and at the offices of Turquands Barton Mayhew & Co., 36 Southey East, London EX1 1LF during all business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and Public Holidays excepted) for a period of fourteen days following the date of publication of this Offer for Sale:—

1. The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.  
2. The Report of Mackay and Schnellmann Limited referred to above.  
3. The Report of Turquands Barton Mayhew & Co. referred to above.  
4. The Report of Joseph Seabag & Co. referred to above.

The above mentioned consents, the statements of adjustments made by Turquands Barton Mayhew & Co. in arriving at the figures set out in their Report and the reasons for the adjustments made are hereby attached to a copy of this Offer for Sale and delivered to the Registrar of Companies for registration.

Dated 29th September, 1977

7. How to apply

Applications should be made on the application form provided and be for a minimum of 200 shares, thereafter in multiples of 100 shares up to 2,000 shares, and thereafter in multiples of 1,000 shares up to 20,000 shares. Applications in excess of 20,000 shares must be in multiples of 5,000 shares. Each application must be accompanied by a separate cheque for the full amount payable on application and be forwarded to National Westminster Bank Limited, New Issues Department, PO Box No. 79, Drapers Gardens, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2P 2BD to arrive not later than 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 5th October, 1977. Cheques, which must be drawn on a bank in and payable in England, Scotland or Wales, must be made payable to National Westminster Bank Limited and be crossed "Not Negotiable". All cheques are liable to be presented for payment on receipt. The date of completion and delivery of the application form accompanied by a cheque will constitute a legally enforceable contract between the applicant and the Company. The Company reserves the right to return all letters of application and to reject any application and to reject multiple applications.

Preferential consideration will be given (up to an aggregate maximum of 500,000 shares) to applications, which must be for 200 shares and smaller in multiples of 100 shares up to 2,000 shares and thereafter in multiples of 1,000 shares up to a maximum of 20,000 shares, received on the special pink Application Form available to employees of the Company or Great Western Ores (including full time employees directors) but not to other directors of the Company, Great Western Ores, Saint Piran or Services or their families or family trusts.

Acceptance of applications will be conditional upon the whole of the issued share capital of the Company being admitted to the Official List by the Council of The Stock Exchange on or before 12th October, 1977. However, payment in respect of all applications will be returned if such admission to the Official List is not obtained by that date and in the meantime will be retained by National Westminster Bank Limited in a separate account.

Arrangements have been made for the registration by the Company, free of stamp duty, of the ordinary shares now being offered in the names of the persons entitled thereto under the terms of acceptance which will be renewable up to and including 15th November, 1977. Share certificates will be despatched on 15th December, 1977.

Copies of this Offer for Sale incorporating an Application Form may be obtained from:—

Joseph Seabag & Co.  
Buckingham House  
3 Queen Victoria Street  
London EC4N 8DX

National Westminster Bank Limited  
New Issues Department  
P.O. Box No. 79  
Drapers Gardens  
12 Throgmorton Avenue,  
London EC2P 2BD

Barclays Bank Limited  
Agar Road  
Hillman Highway  
Pool  
Redruth  
Cornwall TR15 3EB

Barclays Bank Limited  
Marble Jew Street  
Penzance  
Cornwall TR18 2TW

No. of Shares Amount Payable No. of Shares Amount Payable

200 £ 100 900 £ 450  
300 £ 150 1,000 £ 500  
400 £ 200 2,000 £ 1,000  
500 £ 250 5,000 £ 2,500  
600 £ 300 10,000 £ 5,000  
700 £ 350 20,000 £ 10,000  
800 £ 400 100,000 £ 50,000

\*Applications must be for a minimum of 200 shares and thereafter in multiples of 100 shares up to 2,000 shares, and thereafter in multiples of 1,000 shares up to 20,000 shares. Applications in excess of 20,000 shares must be in multiples of 5,000 shares.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Acceptance No. Number of Shares accepted Amount received on application Amount payable Amount returned Cheque No.

Please Use Block Letters  
A Separate Cheque must accompany each Application

DEFINITIONS—  
EXCHANGE CONTROL ACT 1947  
1. The Scheduled Territories at present comprise the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, the Republic of Ireland and Gibraltar.  
2. Authorized Dealers are listed in the current issue of the Bank of England's Notice IC 1 and include most banks and stockbrokers in, and solicitors practising in, the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man. An Approved Agent in the Republic of Ireland is defined in the current issue of the Bank of England's Notice IC 10 as a bank in the Republic of Ireland, a member in the Republic of Ireland of the Stock Exchange or a solicitor practising in the Republic of Ireland.

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3. No receipt will be issued for the amount paid on application but an acknowledgment will be forwarded either by remittance of the amount (together, if applicable, with a cheque for any amount overpaid) or by return through the post of a cheque for the amount paid on application.

For Office Use Only

NAME TYPE A/C ACCEPT

1 2 3 4

Acceptance No. No. of Shares Certificate No.

8 Application Form

THE APPLICATION LIST WILL OPEN AT 10 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 5TH OCTOBER, 1977 AND MAY BE CLOSED AT ANYTIME THEREAFTER ON THE SAME DAY

South Crofty, Limited Offer for Sale  
of 5,250,000 ordinary shares of 10p each at 50p per share payable in full on application

FORM OF APPLICATION

To JOSEPH SEABAG & CO.

Gentlemen,

Having paid to National Westminster Bank Limited the above-mentioned sum being the amount payable on application for the stated number of Ordinary Shares I/we hereby apply to purchase that number of shares.

I/we agree to accept such shares as may be allotted to me/us in respect of this application may be accepted subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company and to the several terms and conditions contained in the Offer for Sale dated 29th September, 1977. I/we request that you issue to me/us a renounceable Letter of Acceptance for that number of shares or such smaller number as is allotted. I/we authorize you to send such Letter of Acceptance, together with a cheque for any amount overpaid, by post at my/our cost to the address (or) addresses given below.

I/we warrant that the cheque attached hereto will be paid on first presentation.

I/we declare that I am/we are not resident outside the Scheduled Territories and am/are not applying for the above-mentioned shares as mentioned in (a) of any person(s) resident outside these Territories.

(If this declaration cannot be made, it must be deleted and reference must be made to an Authorized Depositary, or to an Approved Agent in the Republic of Ireland through whom this form must be lodged.)

Dated / / 1977

For or Sole Applicant (1) Usual Signature

All Christian Names or Forenames

Surname (State Mr., Mrs., Miss or Title)

Address (in full)

A Corporation may complete under hand by a duly authorized officer who should state his representative capacity.

JOINT APPLICANTS (If any)

(2) Signature

All Christian Names or Forenames

Surname (State Mr., Mrs., Miss or Title)

Address (in full)

(3) Signature

All Christian Names or Forenames

Surname (State Mr., Mrs., Miss or Title)

Address (in full)

Please Use Block Letters

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Sun shines on Pontin's

The accounts for the year to last March from the largest independent holiday camp group, Pontin's, puts the latest venture into sun heating firmly in the shade. It is known that the group has a patented solar panel which last November it was about to mass produce at a new factory in Cornwall. Such panels were already used, so the annual meeting a year ago was told, to hear the Barton Hall camp

APV plus Hall equals £7.6m

APV Holdings, who recently bought Hall Thermotank, reports a rise in pre-tax profits from £5.5m to £7.6m. Hall Thermotank, who was not part of APV last year, made a contribution of £1.2m pre-tax. This was before deducting the interest amounting to £317,000 on the convertible unsecured loan stock issued as part of the buying price.

Turnover of this Crawley-based group which is a holding company for processing and heat-transfer equipment, rose from £58.5m to £59.6m in the six months to June 30. Earnings a share are 24.7p after 21.62p and the directors have declared an interim dividend of 5.2p, gross compared with 5.4p. It is also proposed to make a scrip issue on the basis of one-for-one.

In 1976, turnover of APV climbed from £58.1m to £137.4m and pre-tax profits rose from £5.1m to a record £12.6m. In April, Mr P. Seligman, the then chairman, said that market recovery with a few exceptions remained uncertain, but there was a modest recovery in some countries and certain industries.

Mr H. Benson, who has recently been appointed chairman, says the group was expected to achieve higher involvement sales and profits for the second half but is suffering some reduction in the industrial sector.

Dividend hope at new look PMA

Hopes are high at PMA Holdings that the firm's new look will return to dividends this year. Mr Malcolm Meredith, chairman, joined the group with a new management team in February, 1976, and he has since brought the group from a loss of £111,000 for 10 months trading to March 31, 1976, to a profit of £62,000 the following year.

The first quarter of the current year has seen the worst of the slump for the furniture trade, but PMA did better than a year earlier.

Given that the industry is past the worst, "it is possible" that PMA will beat its record pre-tax profit for the full year. The previous best was achieved six years ago. The board hopes to pay a small dividend.

Since the year end in March the group's share-up has continued with the sale of Lloyds Packings Warehouses for £40,000. The group then bought up two fibreglass companies, to create an important contract furniture unit.

Bumper year seen at F. H. Tomkins

Mr Gerald Gorman, Chairman of engineers F. H. Tomkins, told the Annual Meeting that the group is expanding its sales in spite of acute competition in every activity and that profits are being squeezed. However, he is confident that profits for the 6 months will show a satisfactory improvement over the record £520,000 made in the same period last year. He goes on to reason why this trend should not be maintained for the rest of the year.

The group nearly exceeded £1.5m pre-tax in the year just past and he will be extremely disappointed if the group does not break through this barrier this year.

Hoskins & Horton up 41 pc but trade bad

The works at Hoskins & Horton, the Birmingham-based civil engineering and building, had little to do in the second quarter of this year. The recession has continued into the third

Interest charges cut Wimpey interim rise

By Victor Felstead The latest interim figures from the George Wimpey construction group were at the lower end of the market's range of estimates so the shares fell a few pence. But they recovered most of this later on.

Operating profits showed a gain of 29.2 per cent to £19m in the first half of this year. However, last year's interest charge of £1.3m gave way to a £1.5m charge this time. The result was that pre-tax profits were only 9.37 per cent ahead at £17.5m. Market estimates were from £17.5m to £22m.

However many still expect £18m to £20m pre-tax for 1977, against last year's record £14.4m.

Mr R. E. Smith, chairman, explains that the employment of funds in property purchases and development, many of which have not reached the income-producing stage, is reflected in the change in interest receivable and payable.

He points out that the results are not strictly comparable. Those for 1976 do not reflect the change of accounting procedure under statement of standard accounting practice No. 9. The value of work carried out was 14 per cent up at £33m. Although the United Kingdom market is still depressed, orders ceased to drop in the past few months, though margins are thin. "The maintenance of an active home market is vital, not only in itself, but as a base for continued expansion overseas," the chairman warns shareholders.

Brown Bros jump 72 pc in first half

Reporting a rise of more than two-thirds in interim profits, Brown Brothers Corporation is cheerful about the year as well. Sales up by 14.7 per cent to £31.5m, pre-tax profits jumped by 72 per cent to £1.2m in the first half.

Mr R. C. Sperring, chairman, says the group will continue to develop plans for the motor divisions of the main distribution company. It expects the "present satisfactory trends" to continue.

The export side is also expected to do well. With the manufacturing companies of target for the year, 1977 results are for the best in almost a decade. These were £1.5m pre-tax.

The board intends to pay its maximum dividend allowed in this period. This would be 2.44p gross compared with 1.46p for 1976. As far as the distribution side of the group is concerned, the chairman reported that the scheduled reduction in the volume of non-motor products, radio, television and domestic appliances, was accelerated.

Standard accounting practice No. 9. The value of work carried out was 14 per cent up at £33m. Although the United Kingdom market is still depressed, orders ceased to drop in the past few months, though margins are thin. "The maintenance of an active home market is vital, not only in itself, but as a base for continued expansion overseas," the chairman warns shareholders.

Commodities

Commodity	Unit	Price
Aluminium	ton	£1,100
Copper	ton	£1,800
Gold	ounce	£280
Iron ore	ton	£150
Lead	ton	£1,200
Nickel	ton	£1,500
Platinum	ounce	£1,200
Silver	ounce	£150
Steel	ton	£100
Tin	ton	£1,800
Zinc	ton	£1,100

Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
Barclays Bank	7%
Consolidated Credits	8%
First London Secs	7%
C. Moore & Co	7%
Lloyds Bank	7%
London & M'cauliffe	7%
Midland Bank	7%
Nat Westminister	7%
Rossminster Acc's	7%
Shenley Trust	9%
TSB	7%
Williams & Glyn's	7%

MINERALS AND RESOURCES CORPORATION LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that the forty-eighth annual general meeting of members of Minerals and Resources Corporation Limited will be held at The Bank of Bermuda Building, Front Street, Hamilton, Bermuda, at 11.15 on Wednesday, 28th October, 1977, for the following business:

- To receive and consider the statement of accounts and the reports of the directors and of the auditors for the year ended 30th June 1977.
- To elect directors.
- To fix the remuneration of the auditors and to appoint auditors for the ensuing year.
- Special business: To consider and, if deemed fit, to pass, with or without modification, the following resolution, namely: That the action of the directors of the corporation in transferring an amount of US\$20 million from the share premium account to make a deficit arising on an extraordinary item be hereby approved.

A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint another member as his proxy to attend and, on a poll, to vote in his stead.

By Order of the Board  
D. F. Ellis, Secretary.

NORTH EAST COAST SHIPREPAIRERS LIMITED

650,000 6 1/2% Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each

At a Board Meeting held on 6th September, 1977 it was resolved that the preference dividend which would otherwise become payable at 30th September, 1977 on 650,000 6 1/2% Cum. Pref. Shares, should not be paid.

This decision was reached having regard to the adverse trading conditions experienced by the Company.

29th September, 1977  
B. WRIGHT  
Company Secretary

M. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

1976-77	Company	Last Price	Gross Div	Yld %	P-E
43	Airsprung Ord	42	—	4.2	7.8
148	Airsprung 18 1/2% CULS	148	—	18.4	12.5
39	Armstrong & Rhodes	36	—	3.3	9.1
142	Bardon Hill	136	—	12.0	8.8
165	Deborah Ord	165	—	10.3	6.2
170	Deborah 17 1/2% CULS	170	—	17.5	10.2
138	Fredrick Barker	135	—	11.5	8.5
115	Henry Sykes	115	—	2.4	2.0
58	Jackman Group	57	—	5.0	8.7
100	James Burrough	100	—	6.0	6.1
304	Robert Jenkins	304	—	27.0	8.8
24	Twinklark Ord	12	—	—	—
76	Twinklark 12 1/2% CULS	76	—	12.0	10.7
83	Unilock Holdings	83	—	7.0	10.9
83	Walter Alexander	83	—	6.4	7.7

Interim Report FPA CONSTRUCTION GROUP LIMITED

INTERIM STATEMENT The Directors announce that the unaudited results of the Group for the six months ended 30th June 1977, are as follows:

Year audited to 31st December 1976	1976-77	1975-76
23,624	TURNOVER	11,698
415	GROUP PROFITS BEFORE TAX	197
227	TAXATION	112
178	GROUP PROFITS AFTER TAX	85
89	DIVIDENDS	40

MAIN POINTS FROM THE STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN, MR. B. J. WARD.

- \* Group has maintained its recovery.
- \* Group is reasonably well placed to take advantage of any improvement in the industry.
- \* Contracting Division has a substantial outstanding order book.
- \* Reduction of borrowings in the order of £700,000.
- \* Strengthened financial position.

Gen Telephone growing more slowly now

The General Telephone and Electronics Corporation is about to complete a good third quarter, and earnings for the whole of 1977 are expected to be substantially above 1976 results, according to Mr Theodore Brophy, chairman.

However, Mr Brophy said that second-half growth "may slow down somewhat" from the 14 per cent rise in first-half earnings, after the elimination of currency translation gains. In the first half of this year, GTE reported net income applicable to common stock of \$251.5m (about £148m). This was up from \$180.9m a year earlier.

The translation of the results of GTE's Canadian telephone subsidiaries into United States dollars caused an increase in 1977 first-half results and a decrease in first-half 1976 earnings. Mr Brophy said that 1978 should be a "good growth year" for GTE. The company expects American gross national product overall to rise by about 3.5 per cent next year, but some of the areas important to GTE such as housing starts and consumer spending are expected to do better than this.

Mr Brophy made his comments in London where he is here to address a meeting of institutional investors. Other GTE officials have been addressing groups of institutional investors in Europe.

Swissair option

Swissair has announced an option issue. It will offer to its shareholders on October 27, November 4 to raise 37.6m Swiss francs (about £9m). It said that current holders of its registered or bearer shares would be offered the 1,000-franc notes, with an option to acquire two bearer shares, at the rate of one note for every 30 shares of the registered or bearer shares held. Swissair said the details of the terms would be indicated in the prospectus to be made available to shareholders later.

Toshiba sees decline

Shibaura Electric (Toshiba) of Tokyo expects net earnings for the half-year ending September, 1977, to be about 10 per cent lower than the year to next March to decline, as foreign exchange losses pile up and prospects for economic recovery seem distant, Mr Yuichi Yamada, Director of Financial Affairs, says.

Toshiba, which plans to issue a \$300m (about £204m) 15-year convertible bond in Europe this autumn, estimates that its parent company's only net profit in the six months to September 30 will fall about 10 per cent.

Singer sale

The Singer Company of America has announced the sale of its controlling stock interest in Dobinski Freres, SA, a European furniture manufacturing operation, to Societe Rochefortaise des Produits Alimentaires, SA, a French group with headquarters in Paris. The sale, for which a loss

provision was established in December, 1975, is part of a programme to dispose of or discontinue certain product lines and business activities judged by the company to be either unprofitable or peripheral to its continuing businesses. Singer continues as a leading manufacturer of bedroom and dining room furniture in the United States.

Northrop redemption

Northrop Corp of Los Angeles has called for the redemption on December 1 of its outstanding 44 per cent convertible subordinated debentures. The redemption price will be \$1,033.38 (about £588.00) for each \$1,000 principal amount. Holders who convert will receive 60 shares of the company's common stock for each \$1,000 principal amount.

Borel's bigger loss

Jacques Borel International, the operator of a chain of restaurants and hotels has reported a first-half loss of \$6m (about £3.6m) against a profit of \$1.5m (about £0.8m) a year earlier. Sales rose to \$33m from \$32m. The company attributes the loss mainly to its hotel division, to its Belgian activities and to Seorim, its engineering unit. The present plan to restructure the group and cut down costs is expected to lead to profits and financial equilibrium.

Discount market

Lending on an extremely large scale by the Bank of England to the discount market yesterday was split into a moderate sum for seven days and a very large sum overnight. Eight or nine houses took these loans at MLR (6 per cent).

The shortage of credit was on a lesser scale than Wednesday's, but still severe enough to keep rates in the 6-7 per cent area for most of the session. There was some easing at the finish, so that books were cleared off at the 5 1/2 per cent bid.

Treasury bills were still trading on a quote of 5 1/2-5 1/4 per cent, close to the point that would trigger the market formula for dropping MLR another quarter-point. The Bank took the opportunity to reinforce the signal of its put out on Wednesday. This time the bank indicated that it does not wish to see any further fall in short-term interest rates for the time being, and, in particular, does not wish to see any fall in MLR at the tender today.

Money Market Rates

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 6% (unchanged 1977)

Overnight High 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

7 days 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

14 days 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

1 month 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

3 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

6 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

12 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

18 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

24 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

30 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

36 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

42 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

48 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

54 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

60 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

66 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

72 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

78 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

84 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

90 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

96 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

102 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

108 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

114 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

120 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

126 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

132 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

138 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

144 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

150 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

156 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

162 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

168 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

174 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

180 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

186 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

192 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

198 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

204 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

210 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

216 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

222 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

228 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

234 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

240 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

246 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

252 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

258 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

264 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

270 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

276 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

282 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

288 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

294 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

300 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

306 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

312 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

318 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

324 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

330 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

336 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

342 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

348 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

354 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

360 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

366 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

372 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

378 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

384 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

390 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

396 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

402 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

408 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

414 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

420 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

426 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

432 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

438 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

444 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

450 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

456 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

462 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

468 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

474 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

480 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

486 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

492 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

498 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

504 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

510 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

516 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

522 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

528 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

534 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

540 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

546 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

552 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

558 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

564 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977)

570 months 5 1/2% (unchanged 1977







## £6,000 plus Appointments

### CANADIAN AEROSPACE...

#### Opportunities in Engineering and Operations Management

A Canadian leader in Aerospace Engineering and Fabrication, offers exciting and challenging opportunities to seasoned professionals. High technology Unmanned Airborne Surveillance Systems, and an advanced business jet are just some of the programs providing long term career possibilities with this company. Here are some of the key positions that are immediately available:

#### ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT

- Section Chief Avionics (Aircraft)
- Section Chief Systems Design and Integration (Surveillance)

#### DESIGN ENGINEERING

- Senior Avionics Designers
- Senior Aircraft Structural Designers
- Senior Mechanical/Hydraulic Systems Designers

#### SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

- Senior Systems Analysts
- Senior Reliability Analysts
- Standards Engineer
- Engineering Writers

#### MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING

- Senior Tool Designers
- N/C Programmers (5 axis)
- Senior Assembly and Installation Planners
- Composite Materials Analysts
- CAD/CAM

#### OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

- Director, Final Assembly
- Manager, Assembly
- Manager, Pre-flight
- Manager, Sheet Metal and Plastics

If you are interested in finding out more about these aerospace opportunities, send your resume to: Canadair Ltd., Box 2602 J, The Times

# canadair

### Head of Education and Training

c. £8,500

The Trustee Savings Bank organisation is regionally and federally structured, with nineteen banks, a Central Board and specialist subsidiary companies. Their role is currently being widened to give a full personal banking service to their customers and as a consequence, their training and educational programmes covering around 18,000 staff are being greatly expanded.

Each Bank has its own training department and there is also a residential college at Solihull which provides management training. The Central Board proposes to set up an Education and Training Division to co-ordinate the work of the Banks' training departments. This Division will provide advisory and support services; develop the activities of the TSB College; mount specialist courses and seminars; liaise with outside organisations; undertake educational research and any other necessary strategic activities.

The new Head of Division will be joining at a pioneering stage and will make a major personal contribution in shaping the new division. The post is London based but will involve some travelling and occasional short absences from home.

Starting salary will be around £8,500 plus Stage Two supplement depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits include non-contributory pension, house mortgage subsidy and a London allowance. Re-location expenses will be paid where appropriate.

Applications are invited particularly from graduates (men and women) with at least 5 years relevant experience in commercial/industrial training and education. This vacancy has been advertised internally. The successful applicant will have to pass a medical examination.

Applications, giving the names of two referees, (one of whom must be the applicant's most recent employer) should be sent marked "Confidential" to:

Head of Personnel Division (HET),  
Trustee Savings Bank Central Board,  
PO Box 99, 3 Gracechurch Street,  
London, EC3P 3BX.

No references will be taken up before an offer of employment is made.  
Closing date for applications will be 17th Oct. 1977.



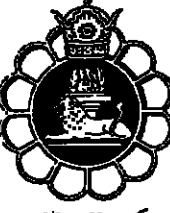
### Middle East Appointments

## Senior Petroleum Engineer Iran

The National Iranian Oil Company requires a Senior Petroleum Engineer to be Manager of Petroleum Production.

This position is based in Tehran but the person appointed will travel to oil and gas fields and project sites throughout Iran. The work involves organising and directing a new production department for the supervision of several new and large gas and oil production operations, including production liquid recovery, sweetening, compression plants and their commissioning. Applicants must hold a degree in Chemical, Petroleum or Mechanical Engineering from a recognised university and have at least 15 years' experience in oil production, maintenance, planning, management of oil and gas field operations and liquid recovery. An excellent knowledge of written and spoken English is essential. In addition, applicants must have proven ability and be willing to train existing and new employees by setting up training courses and establishing engineering and operating manuals in conjunction with the Training Department.

The appointment will be for a minimum of two years and may be extended for several years. An attractive salary and fringe benefits are offered, including transportation of family and annual home leave.



Please apply as soon as possible to:  
Mr A. Ebnadi,  
Administration Manager,  
The National Iranian Oil Co.,  
Granville House,  
132-135 Sloane Street,  
London S.W.1.



LA CREME DE LA CREME

### INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR COTTON

requires a

## FABRIC ADVISOR

to offer a comprehensive trade advisory service concerned with production and supply of pure cotton fabrics.

Applicants should have a comprehensive knowledge of textiles, experience of the commercial fabric trade, interest in and appreciation of fashion and be capable of working to a large extent on their own initiative.

Day to day running of fabric library requires a capable and organised person. Must be free to travel.

Write with full C.V. to Fiona Ronaldson,  
FASHION CO-ORDINATOR,  
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR COTTON,  
17-19 MADDOX STREET, LONDON, W.1

NON-SECRETARIAL

### SKI SUPERTRAVEL

are looking for staff to run their Ski resorts in the Alps. Candidates should be 22-30 with a proven ability to manage a ski resort. Super job in young atmosphere. Super salary. 25 Gross per week. 10% of Gross. W.I. Tel: 01-360 5142.

Supervisors, 10% of Gross. W.I. Tel: 01-360 5142.

### SCHEUMI HAIR STUDIO

In Knightsbridge require immediate assistance. Young person with previous experience in hairdressing. Super salary. Super job. Super atmosphere. Super salary. 25 Gross per week. 10% of Gross. W.I. Tel: 01-360 5142.

### RECEPTIONIST (25-30)

required by international business company. Must be top class with strong personality. Salary 25,000 plus. Joyce Carter, 730 5142.

### TELEVISION

requires administrator with research skills. Reception duties. Salary 25,000 plus. Joyce Carter, 730 5142.

### ESTATE AGENTS

St. John's Wood require dynamic and energetic person to assist in busy selling area. Salary 25,000 plus. Joyce Carter, 730 5142.

### DENTAL

for pleasant Harley Street practice. Salary 25,000 plus. Joyce Carter, 730 5142.

### SUPERVISOR

for pleasant Harley Street practice. Salary 25,000 plus. Joyce Carter, 730 5142.

### TEACHING/GRADUATES

See Public and Private Schools. Salary 25,000 plus. Joyce Carter, 730 5142.

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### COMMISSION FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

## DIRECTOR, LEGAL & GENERAL SERVICES

The Commission for Racial Equality invites applications for the post of Director, Legal & General Services to be based in its headquarters office in London.

The main functions of the Commission, which has been set up under the Race Relations Act 1976, include working towards the elimination of racial discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups. It has a staff complement of over 200 and operates in three divisions, each headed by a Director.

The Legal and General Services Division consists of the Legal, Finance, Information, Research Sections and the Training and Personnel Services. It has a total staff complement of 85.

The Director of the Division will be responsible to the Chief Executive for the work of the Division. He will have special responsibility for advising the Commission on all the legal matters related to the functions and powers of the Commission under the Race Relations Act 1976.

Preference will be given to candidates with sound knowledge and experience of the law, and administration including personnel management.

Salary: £8,650 rising to £11,000 p.a. plus a supplement of £208.80 and London Weighting allowance of £485 p.a. Please write for an application form and further particulars to the Principal, Management Services, The Commission for Racial Equality, Ref. LG2/TT, Elliot House, 10/12 Allington Street, London, S.W.1, enclosing a large self-addressed envelope. Completed application forms should be returned not later than 17 October.

## Research & Technology Committee Secretary

Following a recent internal promotion, the Confederation of British Industry invites applications for a senior administrative post in its Education Training and Technology Directorate.

The person appointed would be responsible for much of the CBI's work in industrial research and technology. This includes both policy matters, prepared by the Research and Technology Committee, of which the successful candidate will be Secretary, and practical questions arising in the day to day running of research and development in industry. Subjects recently dealt with include technology and competitiveness, industry-university relations in research matters, and the role of government in industrial research and development.

Applicants should have a scientific, engineering or technological background and some experience of industrial research and development. A fluent pen and the ability to deal with people in industrial research, Government and the Universities at a senior level are essential.



Salary will be negotiable, according to age and experience, from £5500 per annum. Please write for application forms to Jane Hopkinson CBI, 21 Tottill Street, London SW1H 9LP. Telephone no. 01-930 6711.

### THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MERCHANT TAYLORS

The Company invites applications for a new post of Deputy Clerk to be filled early in 1978. This officer will rank as second in seniority to the Clerk and will act for him in his absence from duty. Although succession to the clerkship will not be automatic on the retirement of the present incumbent in 1980, the Deputy Clerk will clearly be a contender for the appointment.

Principal duties will comprise general administration of properties, trusts and charities, preparing agenda and minutes, correspondence, ceremonial, responsibility for running the Hall and its staff. A knowledge of law or accountancy would be an advantage. The successful candidate is likely to be aged around 40 to 45 and preferably married.

The starting salary, which is pensionable, will be in the region of £8,000 pa.

Application forms may be obtained from the Clerk, 30 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8AY.

### An experienced Bank Manager for Oman

An experienced Arabic speaking commercial banker required to be Manager of the main corporate branch of expanding local bank in Sultanate of Oman. Free furnished accommodation, car and other benefits. Applications will be treated in strict confidence. Apply to Box No. 2477 J, The Times.

## £6,000 as Social Secretary

to the Director-General of a well established Charity in W.I.

You will be a graduate with a mature and pleasant personality. Self-motivated, assured, an able typist, with the ability to communicate at all levels in both written and verbal form.

A competent organiser who will enjoy arranging literary functions and will feel confident in liaising with Educational bodies throughout the U.K. Those with this profile should send a Curriculum Vitae to:



Miss Patricia Ritchie,  
8a Symons Street, London SW3 2TJ.  
Tel: 01-730 0137.

EXECUTIVE PRESELECTIONS

## General Manager

INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF DISTILLERS  
INVITE APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF  
GENERAL MANAGER FOR A DISTILLERY  
IN THE WEST INDIES

Applicants should be under 40 years of age and fully experienced in distillery operations and in blending and bottling techniques. The successful candidate will, in addition, have experience in the control of a business, and of initiating a marketing effort for sale and distribution of products. An initial appointment of up to two years is envisaged with other opportunities within the Group thereafter.

Salary, leave and terms of service will be fully commensurate with experience. Applicants are invited to reply to Box 2661 J, The Times and a curriculum vitae should be enclosed.

## General Management

£12,000 Basic + Substantial Bonus + Usual benefits

A British company with European operations seeks a General Manager/ess to be totally responsible to the Board for the profitable management and development of its U.K. operation, located in London.

The company markets consumer goods, frequently backed with major T.V. promotions.

The person sought will be in the age range early thirties to early forties and possess a strong background in consumer goods sales and marketing management. Additionally the candidate will possess a proven track record in product development through to successful market exploitation and should be able to demonstrate the strength of character necessary to take over and develop an existing operation.

Please write with career details in confidence to the consultants handling the appointment to

Box 2601 J, The Times.

## County Valuer and Estates Officer

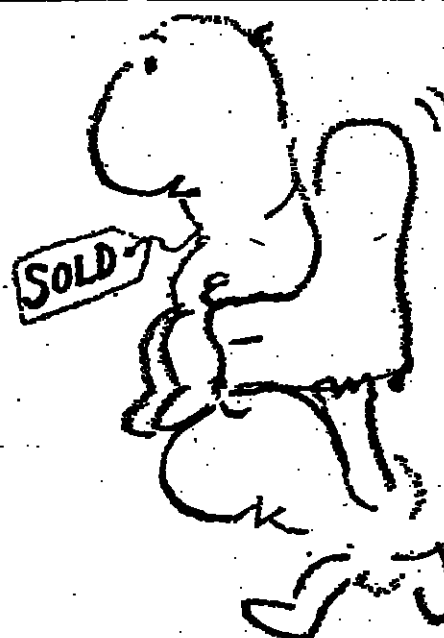
(£9,141 x £294 (3)-£10,023 + Supplements)

The above post will become vacant on 30 April, 1978, on the retirement of the present Chief Officer, J. T. Bradley, A.R.I.C.S. A successor is sought who must be professionally qualified and have the experience and ability to lead a progressive valuation and estates department, Northamptonshire with four new and expanding towns is one of the most rapidly growing authorities in the country.

Application forms and further details are available from: the Personnel Officer, County Hall, Northampton, NN1 1DN and should be returned to the Chief Executive to arrive by 21 October 1977.



Northamptonshire  
Valuation & Estates Department



## Armchair selling.

Whatever you've got to sell, be it Victorian bric-a-bac or a Pirelli calendar, advertise in The Times 'For Sale' and 'Wanted' columns by ringing 01-837 3311 (or Manchester 061-834 1234). It's where whatever's for sale sells and wants are found.



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